Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 172

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Regenerative agriculture: Beyond organic farming. PAGE 2

Tegan Quitano now under DYS' care. PAGE 4

$1

Star Marianas rescinds termination notice

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios effectively intervened in the dispute between Star Marianas Air, Inc. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority with Star Marianas officially rescinding its notice to terminate inter-island flight service.

See STAR on Page 4

WELCOMING THE USS *MOBILE* OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

This past weekend, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios welcomed Commander David Gardener, Commander Eric Burtner-Abt, Command Senior Chief Kendall Lindvold, and the crew of the USS *Mobile* to Saipan. The ship is making a port call through Thursday. The USS *Mobile*, an Independence-variant littoral combat ship, adds to the increasing number of port calls to the CNMI and underscores the CNMI's role in regional security and its partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Guam governor clarifies she doesn't support nuclear armament

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero clarifies that she was misrepresented in articles and editorials published by Radio New Zealand regarding her stance on nuclear armament

See GUAM on Page 4

Leon Guerrero

NMI Democratic Party joins national convention

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands proudly represented the CNMI during the 2024 Democratic National Convention last week and were even recognized by internation media outlets.

After years of virtual conventions following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Democratic National Convention Committee finally hosted a physical convention from Aug. 19 to 22 at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois.

See CONVENTION on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands proudly represented the CNMI during the 2024 Democratic National Convention last week and were even recognized by international media outlets.

Spike in gas theft incidents prompts public safety alert

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A victim of gas thieves shows the bottom of his car with his gas hose cut.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

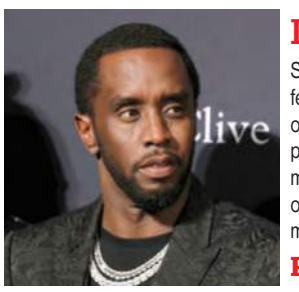
The Department of Public Safety has issued a public warning following a significant rise in gas theft

See SPIKE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Saipan Mayor's Office recently hosted students from Japan who arrived for a weeklong exchange visit on island.
PAGE 5

BUSINESS
From facials to hair loss treatments, and from Botox to tattoo removals, residents looking for a local go-to for quality skincare services and products need only to visit the village of Puerto Rico to find their fix.
PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE
Sean "Diddy" Combs asked a federal judge Monday to throw out a lawsuit from a music producer who accused the music mogul of a broad pattern of sexual abuse and other misconduct.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

DID YOU KNOW?
Your child can get vaccinated at no cost
The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines at no cost to children who qualify. About half of the children (younger than 19 years old) living in the CNMI get VFC vaccines.
Is my child able to get VFC vaccines?
Children are able to get VFC vaccines if it is before their 19th birthday and they:
• Have Medicaid
• Don't have insurance
• American Indian or Alaska Native
How much will I have to pay?
• All routinely recommended vaccines are at no cost to patients who qualify through the VFC Program
• Providers can charge fees to give each shot. However, they cannot refuse to vaccinate your child if you are unable to pay these fees.
Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?
CHCC Immunization Program 670-236-8745
CHCC Children's Clinic call 670-234-8951
CHCC Mobile Clinic call 670-287-9926/27/29
Medical Associates of the Pacific call 670-323-9000
Marianas Medical Center call 670-234-3926
Kagman Isla Community Health Center call 670-256-5242
Tinian Health Center call 670-433-9233
Tinian Isla Health Center call 670-433-4750
Rota Health Center call 670-532-9461
To find what vaccines you need please call
@cnmichcc | www.chcc.health
Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

Local

Regenerative agriculture: Beyond organic farming

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services interim dean and State Nutrition and Health Program leader Patty Coleman provided a conceptual overview of regenerative agriculture as a guest speaker during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

In Coleman's presentation, she mentioned that the cultural heritage of Pacific and Indigenous people provides insights into traditional food-growing practices. Regenerative agriculture, according to Coleman, contributes to soil fertility, water retention, and biodiversity. It focuses on the ecosystem health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The regenerative approach aims to restore and build the health of the ecosystem and human health.

Conceptual approaches to regenerative agriculture include food security, nutrition security, and regenerative security. It involves restoring and enhancing the health of the ecosystem that produces food.

A video presentation of some of their works was presented. In the video, Georenda Satoshi talked about how growing their own food is important for self-sustenance and monitoring, and that it is a practice that she can pass on to her kids for a healthier future.

Coleman added that as NMC-CREES works with diverse groups in regenerative agriculture, including businesses, farmers, wholesalers, and retailers, their perspective allows them to consider all aspects of the food system. One of the unintended outcomes of their workshops is that people often seek to foster connections with the community.

Coleman's group continues to explore connections between culture, land, oceans, people, and traditional values in regenerative agriculture, examining examples of regenerative agriculture practices from neighboring regions, and understanding the perspectives of children on what a farm looks like.

Coleman also shared general knowledge about agroforestry being passed down through generations in the Pacific. She mentioned the case of forests in Samoa that are over 2,000 years old—adding that Pacific people are the real masters of agroforestry.

Coleman announced a plan to publish a 150-page regenerative agroforestry workbook. The workbook can be specifically used in the CNMI and is expected to be published in the fall season.

Coleman ended her presentation by encouraging the cultivation of nutritious food using indigenous methods that restore the environment and empower individuals and invited the Rotary Club to collaborate in the green growth movement.

Rotarians asked several questions, including *tangan tangan*, and Coleman explained the importance of mulching and cutting *tangan tangan* to incorporate organic matter like leaves and wood. She emphasized that the wood attracts fungi, which is crucial for creating the right growing conditions. Coleman mentioned that they usually leave the wood unless there's a significant issue due to the access to organic matter, and highlights the lack of organic matter in places like Tinian and the importance of incorporating it into the soil.

Marie Javier shared her experience with leasing land in As Gonno and the difficulty in obtaining seedlings from the Philippines. Coleman acknowledges the administrative challenges farmers face in procuring seeds and recommends planting perennial plants.

Javier inquired about procuring seeds locally and mentions the fertile soil on Saipan. Coleman reiterates that they help farmers source seeds and emphasize the use of no pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides in their installation. She described regenerative farming as being above organic because it builds soil density and ensures long-term ecosystem health.

Brian Clayton asked about zoning issues with large gardening or farming on residential properties. Coleman mentioned a client, James Montenegro, who has a successful agroforestry operation and no zoning issues. She also discussed the possibility of night-time farming due to heat sensitivity.

David M. Sablan suggested establishing a farmers' association to coordinate agricultural efforts and market consumption.

Glenn Perez asked about obtaining topsoil and mentioned the degradation of their plot. Coleman explains the process of getting topsoil to re-inoculate the soil with microorganisms.

Rotary president Joann Aquino presented a Paul Harris pin to Coleman as an appreciation for serving as their guest speaker.

16 contestants prepare for Voices of the Marianas elimination round

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After completing two audition calls, 16 contestants are preparing to voice off on the Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition.

This past Saturday the Voices of the Marianas concluded the audition phase for the singing competition at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with seven more vocalists added to the nine from the first round of auditions.

Following their audition, several contestants shared with *Saipan Tribune* their sentiments passing the auditions.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition judges and Save the Music Foundation-CNMI officials pose with the final round of contestants after auditions last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition contestant Donna Rose Santiago sings a Lady Gaga hit during the final round of auditions last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition contestant Justin Tubera delivers a heartfelt performance during the final round of auditions last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition contestant Karlymae Kapileo Lizama performs her original song during the final round of auditions last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"I feel good. I really was excited to meet everybody and see everybody. So, I'm excited for next round," said Lou Guevarra after her a cappella performance of Jamie Grace's *God Girl*.

"I feel happy," said 17-year-old Donna Rose Santiago, adding that she nearly didn't make it to the audition, but now that it was over, she was glad she did.

Santiago, who happens to be a sister of Season 1 runner-up Donato Santiago, shared that the competition had helped her get back on stage after a long while, and her heartfelt version of Lady Gaga's *Always Remember Us this Way* received positive feedback from the judges.

"When I was younger, I would always sing but then I stopped, and that's why I get scared now. But now I feel relieved that I have hope," said Santiago. "My experience so far is good. Everyone here is really nice. They treat me like family. That's why I love it."

Sixteen-year-old Karlymae Joy Kapileo Lizama's audition gained praise from all the judges, after performing her original song *Matter of Time*.

"I was really nervous at first when I got on the stage. But overall, I'm really thankful I got to come here today."

Lizama expressed her delight at the reception of her song. She said that she thinks she will be doing more throughout the competition. The Marianas High School student added that she had been really shy to perform in the competition, especially in front of an audience, but with guidance and support from the VOTM committee and her peers, she was able to.

"I'm impressed," said special judge John Sablan. He noted that it was great to see the turnout of those who want to get involved in music.

"I wish I would see more. There's a lot of closeted singers, people that are great at singing, but they're shy in front of people. I would encourage them or any of them to come, even if you're not that good, because I know for a fact you don't have to be a great singer to be a great performer."

Like Sablan, Felix Rabauliman is new to the VOTM judges panel and shared, "It's been a good experience." He hopes to bring constructive criticism to help not only the competition but the contestants as well. "I'm here to just make sure to give the critique that I personally thought I could contribute."

"I know the cause of Voices of the Marianas... They have a mission that I really admire, and it's really going to help the music community here on island. What better way to help than to volunteer for whatever they want to do," he said.

When asked on his thoughts on the number of individuals who showed their desire to pursue music in the competition, he said, "I think it shows that for a long time, this island has really talented musicians who are just very overlooked. I'm just basing it on what I see in other places that have worse conditions than this place, but have stronger musical backing, community-wise. I want to help push that."

Competing alongside Lizama, Santiago, and Guevarra are Alyana Rotap, Justin Tubera, Althea Surima, Gil Gupalao, Kaden Manglona, Jennifer Masters, Jordan Ruiz, Jason Lizama, Simon Necesito, Donnel Isip, Franko Deleon Guerrero, Johanna Mogar, and Priscilla Pangelinan.

Joining Rabauliman on the judges panel are Irene Holl, Vinny Orsini, Lovelynn Trinidad Flores, and Tom Basa. Special judges are Sablan, Leo Pangelinan, J.J. Concepcion, and Luella Marciano.

The competition is the second of its kind, but the first under their new organization Save the Music Foundation-CNMI. STMF-CNMI acting vice president Donovan Castro shared that the elimination round will take place on Sept. 7, 2024 from 1pm to 5pm at the multi-purpose center and admission is $10 for 12 years old and above.

To find out more information, check out Voices of the Marianas on Facebook.

ARTMAN
CORPORATION

SERVICES will be:

- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Portable Hand Wash Station
- Handling Recyclable Wastes

PMB 122 Box 10000
MP 96950, Lower Base
artmancorporation@gmail.com
Please Call: 234-8079 | 287-8079

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-019
LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email vicente.deleonguerrero@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Tegan Quitano now under DYS' care

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Quitano

The Department of Public Safety confirmed yesterday that the Saipan teen who was recently reported missing has been found safe and is now under the care of the Division of Youth Services.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop confirmed Tegan Quitano's safety in a brief statement on Tuesday.

"Tegan Quitano is now under the care of DYS. She is safe," Manacop shared with the media following the location of Quitano early yesterday morning.

Quitano was initially reported missing last Friday after she failed to attend school for several days, prompting widespread concern and a community-wide search for four days.

STAR

From page 1

Yesterday, Star Marianas announced that it has rescinded its previous notice to discontinue scheduled air service, which was set to take effect on Oct. 15, 2024.

According to Star Marianas board chair Robert Christian, the decision comes after a constructive meeting held on Aug. 26 with Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and their legal counsel.

"During the meeting, Gov. Palacios and his team demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues contributing to the long-standing dispute between Star Marianas Air and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The productive dialogue and the governor's personal commitment to resolving these critical issues have significantly increased Star Marianas Air's confidence in achieving a fair and sustainable solution at the local level. As a direct result of our meeting with Gov. Palacios, we have decided to continue our scheduled air services," he said.

Christian added that Star Marianas is optimistic about the future development of the CNMI's economy, particularly as inter-island transportation becomes more stable.

"We are hopeful that a constructive relationship between the CPA and its aeronautical users will be instrumental in attracting more airlines to utilize the airports in the CNMI, thereby expanding the local economy," he said.

Christian further states that Star Marianas Air remains committed to providing essential air services to the communities in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam and looks forward to working closely with the Governor's Office to ensure the continued success and growth of the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune recached out to Star Marianas president Shaun Christian regarding the meeting and whether a resolve was reached between Star Marianas and CPA.

However, Shaun Christian clarified that the meeting was only with the CNMI administration, but Palacios assured he would facilitate a meeting with CPA.

Last month, Star Marianas issued a letter to CNMI leaders informing them of its intent to cease its scheduled flight service for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by October should no resolution is reached between Star Marianas and CPA regarding their long-standing battle over airport fees.

"Star Marianas Air, Inc. hereby provides notice of its intent to terminate all scheduled air service to/from the airports in Saipan (PGSN), Tinian (PGWT), and Rota (PGRO), effective Oct. 15, 2024, if a resolution to the current fee setting dispute with the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) cannot be found. This difficult decision is driven primarily by the unsustainable airport fee structure imposed by the CPA, which renders continued service economically unviable," the letter said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CONVENTION

From page 1

This year, state parties and territories across the country excitedly reunite in person for the historic nomination of their presidential nominee Kamala Harris and the NMI Democratic party was in attendance.

"You could feel the positive momentum when President Biden passed the torch to his Vice President both last month and during Day 1, of Monday night's broadcast during the convention. It was a noble thing to do, and the level of respect expressed towards President Biden from the guest speakers, and the new nominees really solidified unity in our party which is so important during these trying times," said party vice chair Luella Marciano.

The NMI party delegation made quite an impression during last week's Democratic National Convention.

The convention broadcast during Day 2, which included each state's roll call brought attention to the NMI and they were a crowd favorite to viewers in the arena with their delegation's outfits, and with their roll call speech. The NMI was featured for their speech on social media platforms like Threads, TikTok, NowThis Impact on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

They were also featured on CNN, and NPR with a double feature in *Vogue Magazine* focused on their island attire worn at the convention.

Democratic Party of the NMI executive director and this year's delegation chair, Nola Hix, said this year was fun because she had some time to prepare.

"For months, I had been collaborating with vendors, and executive directors from all 57 state-parties to come up with convention swag ideas, activities, and events to make our trip an epic one. As for my 30-second speech, I finished it during my 22-hour flight to Chicago. The goal was to bring the focus to climate change, and so I'm glad people were receptive because we need to do more to protect our Mother Earth," she said.

The NMI delegation in this year's Democratic National Convention were Department of Labor Secretary Leila F. Staffler, Angelo Villagomez, Nola K. Hix, Joan Flores-Reyes, Luella Marciano, Tina Sablan, Mike White, Bob Schwalbach, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), with special guests Edz Villagomez and Lisa Whitehurst.

SPIKE

From page 1

incidents across Saipan, primarily targeting 15-seater passenger vans.

According to DPS, as of Monday, they confirmed that within the week of Aug. 18-24, 2024, DPS received eight complaints involving the theft of fuel from multiple vehicles, raising concerns among the local community and businesses.

Assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop shared that the perpetrators have stolen fuel, either by puncturing gas tanks or by cutting the hoses connecting to the tanks and siphoning out the fuel using another hose. The incidents have been reported in various locations, including Capitol Hill, Garapan, Chalan Lau Lau, Susupe, and Chalan Kanoa. With the crimes occurring during late-night hours, between 9pm and 4am.

Manacop highlighted the ongoing investigation into these thefts and urged the public to take extra security measures. "We ask the community and businesses with passenger vans to increase vigilance and implement additional security protocols to safeguard their vehicles," Manacop stated.

Residents and business owners have expressed growing concerns about the frequency and boldness of these crimes. "It's sad to see this happening," said one local business owner who requested anonymity.

He shared with *Saipan Tribune* that he had been targeted twice with thieves stealing over $100 of gas in one shot. "And it's not just me. I have met other business owners who have shared that they too have experienced this type of theft. I think it's important to inform the community about these incidents so we can be more aware and on guard," he shared

DPS is asking anyone with information related to these incidents to share what they know. The Criminal Investigation Bureau can be contacted at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 for those wishing to remain anonymous.

Smoke and dye testing for Tanapag on Aug. 28 and CK on Aug. 29

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that dye tests and smoke tests will be conducted on Tanapag Avenue in Tanapag on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, from 9am to 2pm and on Elphidia St. in Chalan Kanoa on Thursday, Aug. 29, from 9am to 2pm. The purpose of these tests is to locate leaks, breaks, and illegal connections in CUC's sewer system.

About the dye test

A dye test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic dye is introduced into the toilets and cleanouts of participating customers. CUC's wastewater operators will monitor sewer lines for any signs of presence from the dye. If the dye appears in CUC's sewer lines within the customer's area, the customer will then be informed of their connection, and the data will be sent to the Billing Department for proper billing.

Customers should be expecting a visitation from CUC's Wastewater Operators to request for access before performing the dye test.

About the smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects.

Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

To ensure the safety of CUC crew, certain roadways will be closed during the testing period to allow Wastewater Operators to access the manholes. Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding in helping identify customer connections. CUC aims to conduct these tests efficiently while minimizing disruption to customers' daily activities. By proactively engaging in this testing, CUC reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for the community.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

GUAM

From page 1

in the Marianas. Leon Guerrero, instead, says she does not support the presence of any nuclear armament in Guam or the Pacific.

Over a week ago, Our Common Wealth 670, a group believed to be established by local CNMI residents, wrote to Gov. Arnold I Palacios asking him to champion an opposition to Leon Guerrero's comments on Radio New Zealand "in defense" of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles in Guam.

"We are writing in regards to a recent Radio New Zealand interview with the Honorable Governor of Guam, Lou Leon Guerrero. In her interview, Gov. Leon Guerrero defends the use of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles on Guam. We find this latest development troubling given our island's historical stance against the introduction of nuclear storage and waste," said the letter.

"As a community organization dedicated to protecting our islands, seas and community from irreparable damage caused by harmful developments such as militarization, we write with urgent and grave concern to urge government officials to continue to support the voices of our people by speaking out against the introduction of nuclear weapons, storage and waste in our region of the world, let alone within our Marianas archipelago and surrounding waters. There is perhaps nothing more threatening to our islands and way of life than nuclear weapons which have the ability to destroy places for countless generations down the line," the letter further states.

Leon Guerrero, in a clarification letter to RNZ chief news officer Mark Stevens, said she was misrepresented in editorials and articles published by RNZ.

"Most recently, following an interview with RNZ reporter Eleisha Foon, articles and editorials were published that misrepresented my comments about my views on nuclear weapons and the possibility of a future war, causing undue distress among our regional community. Ms. Foon brought her perspective to the interview and many other interviews, which asserted that by building up the defense of Guam, we are attracting war to Micronesia and the greater Pacific… To be clear: I do not support the presence of any nuclear armament in Guam or the Pacific. Nor do I support the escalation to nuclear warfare. I stated that Guam will likely be at risk for potential conflicts because of our strategic location in the Western Pacific which controls access to Asia trade routes. Disputes in this area could escalate into military actions. I reiterate, Guam must be prepared and must be secured," she said.

Leon Guerrero said it is important to the people of Guam to correct misunderstandings of how Pacific Island leaders perceive their community and their strategic value to the U.S. and allies.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Saipan Mayor's Office hosts youth summer exchange program

The Saipan Mayor's Office recently hosted students from Japan who arrived for a week-long exchange visit on island. At the beginning of their trip, the students met with Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho who welcomed them to Saipan and encouraged to actively learn and gain new experiences to share with friends and family back home.

For the duration of their visit, participants of the KSKK Youth Exchange students lived with local host families to introduce them to the customs and lifestyles of our islands. The students took part in a wide variety of fun and educational activities such as a historical tour around Saipan, a visit to the NMI Museum, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. They even put on a small performance for our man'amko at the Office of Aging Center. Fun activities included swimming at

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students pose with Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho during their recent to Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students pose with the *man'amko* at the Aging Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students perform for the *man'amko*.

» Host families talk about experiences

Mañagaha Island and Saipan World Resort and being treated to a local style dinner menu at their farewell party.

Some host families shared their experiences with their "new sons and daughters."

Sandy Deleon Guerrero, a parent of three girls and a boy, said this was her third time hosting Japanese exchange students. "The enjoyment and benefits of having a Japanese exchange student are different every time. These kids are willing to learn and try anything about our culture, customs, and how we live on a daily basis and bonding with the parents and kids throughout their stay. You don't need to buy them expensive things and feed them extravagant food. They are really simple and like the same thing any kid their age would like and do."

Jodina Attao, who is CEO at NMTech, said this is her second time hosting exchange students.

"Hosting foreign exchange students in our household allows my children to get out of their comfort zone. It is an opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture, language and perspective that helps our kids foster greater understanding and appreciation for our historical relationship with Japan; and provides a unique and enriching experience for both our family and the student."

Attao also explained some benefits. "It brings fresh energy and new traditions into our home that lead to lifelong friendships and connections with a sense of community. It is our way of impacting a young person's life while creating memories and meaningful relationships that also contribute to the economic growth of the CNMI."

The Saipan Mayor's Office International Exchange Program offers a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and a chance to build relationships beyond borders. Those who are interested in sponsoring may contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670)234-6208, visit our website at saipan-mayor.cnmi.gov, or email htenorio@mos.gov.mp for more details.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students pose at the Hafa Adai & Tirow sign in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students at Mañagaha Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students at Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KSKK Youth Exchange students at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 172

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The honeymoon is over. Harris must start making the case for her presidency

In her speech accepting the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday, Vice President Kamala Harris offered a withering indictment of her opponent that could constitute a case for her candidacy. Donald J. Trump, she rightly observed, is in many ways "an unserious man," but the consequences of returning him to the White House "are extremely serious."

She asked her audience to "consider the power he will have, especially after the U.S. Supreme Court just ruled that he would be immune from criminal prosecution. Just imagine Donald Trump with no guardrails, and how he would use the immense powers of the presidency of the United States. Not to improve your life, not to strengthen our national security, but to serve the only client he has ever had: himself."

She introduced herself to voters who might not know her personal history and spoke of "a new way forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans." Harris did not focus on the fact that her election would mean elevating to the highest office in the land a woman of Black and Indian descent, a milestone for a country with a long history of excluding women and racial minorities from political power.

But now that the Democratic National Convention is over, the hard work for Harris begins. She must do more than repeat that Trump is unfit. She needs to make the complete case to the American people that she would do more to improve their lives and livelihoods. She must demonstrate her vision for the country and convince voters that she is prepared to be a "president for all Americans."

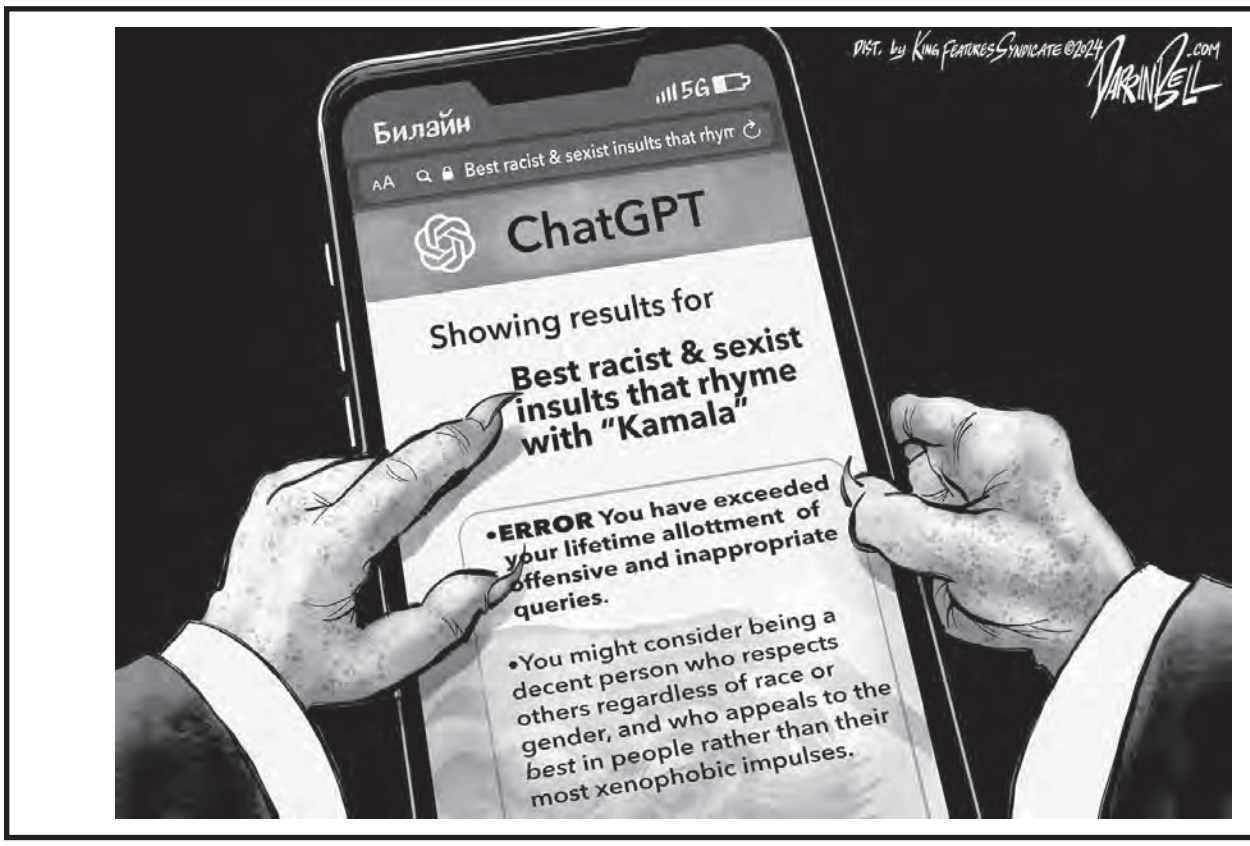
She showed she is capable of this task with her commanding performance that gave the lie to Trump's childish denunciation of Harris as "a low IQ individual" and conveyed a seriousness that Americans expect in their president.

Harris was especially forceful in promising that as commander in chief she would ensure that "America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world." In a deserved dig at Trump, she added that "I will fulfill our sacred obligation to care for our troops and their families, and I will always honor and never disparage their sacrifice."

On the war in Gaza, Harris said that "I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself" and she noted that she and President Biden are "working around the clock" to secure a cease-fire and the return of hostages.

But she also said that "what has happened in Gaza over the past 10 months is devastating." Significantly, she added that she and Biden sought an outcome that would allow the Palestinian people to "realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self-determination." Her remarks may have fallen short of what some antiwar activists would have liked, but

See HARRIS on Page 7


DIST. by KING FEATURES SYNDICATE ©2024 MARKBELL.COM
Билайн
5G
AA
Best racist & sexist insults that rhym
ChatGPT
Showing results for
Best racist & sexist insults that rhyme with "Kamala"
•ERROR You have exceeded your lifetime allottment of offensive and inappropriate queries.
•You might consider being a decent person who respects others regardless of race or gender, and who appeals to the best in people rather than their most xenophobic impulses.

Why aren't business keaders promoting CNMI's visa-free access?

By GLEN HUNTER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Glen Hunter is the special assistant of CNMI Broadband Policy Development. He is writing this opinion piece in his capacity as an active citizen.

In my previous opinion pieces, I have pointed out that the current CNMI administration hasn't made any changes to prevent the legal entry of tourists from China. This really got me questioning why the narrative by business groups and certain individuals has been to incorrectly blame the administration for the lack of tourists from China.

It has not made much sense to me. I arrived at the conclusion that they were not truly after tourists from China as much as they were after pro-PRC messaging from the administration. I still believe that is the case. It did however

get me to wondering why the numbers are down.

Despite any personal reservations I may have, the CNMI continues to offer a unique visa-free entry program for Chinese tourists, a long-standing initiative. Local business groups say they are keen to regain the Chinese tourist market, which was lost during the pandemic and from the PRC blacklisting due to casino gaming. Again, the CNMI lost the China tourist market during the last administration due to the pandemic and these same local business groups embracing casino gaming. It is so surprising to me that these groups haven't significantly promoted the still existing, visa-free program over the past two years. Instead, their efforts have been focused, in

vain, on attempting to secure pro-PRC statements from this administration. Since the pandemic ended, the number of tourists traveling from China to the United States has steadily increased. Popular U.S. destinations for them such as Hawaii, Las Vegas, New York, and California all require visas. Chinese tourists must also transit through Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, or Taiwan before arriving at many of these U.S. destinations. These U.S. destinations are significantly farther away than the CNMI and involve higher travel costs and expenses. This should give the CNMI a considerable advantage in attracting outbound Chinese travelers.

Combined with our visa-free entry policy, we should be seeing an influx of Chinese tourists via Korea, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Given this context, it's perplexing why Chinese travelers, who can enjoy visa-free entry into the CNMI, are not choosing to pass through Korea, Japan, or Hong Kong to reach us. Furthermore, it's interesting that our business groups and tourism-focused organizations are not vigorously promoting our visa-free status and easy accessibility via one hop from these transit locations. It's also confusing that our business groups and tourist organizations are strongly pushing for EVS-TAP. This program would surely end the current visa-free travel for tourists from China and replace it with a system requiring pre-screening, application fees, and waiting times. The current visa-free travel was a product of the same EVS-TAP proponents just years prior. While I agree that enhanced scrutiny is necessary, again, I am puzzled as to why these groups are not more actively advocating for the single-hop ease of access provided by our existing visa-free travel policy. It is important to note that rather than this administration making policy changes to restrict access to the CNMI by tourists from China, it is the business groups who developed, promoted and may successfully enact the EVS-TAP that will restrict the current visa-free access the CNMI currently enjoys.

If these groups truly want to increase tourism from China, perhaps they could take some cost-effective actions. First, they could increase awareness by launching a targeted marketing campaign in China and transit countries (Korea, Japan, Hong Kong) highlighting CNMI's unique visa-free entry program. They could also strengthen partnerships by collaborating with airlines and travel agencies in these transit countries to streamline travel packages to the CNMI. At the moment it is unbelievable that Hong Kong Airlines which has been flying direct to Saipan for months still does not indicate the CNMI as a destination on their own website or allow direct bookings to the CNMI. Engaging business and tourism groups in China to actively promote CNMI as an attractive and easily accessible destination is another crucial step. Lastly, leveraging digital platforms such as social media and travel websites popular among Chinese travelers could further spread awareness of the visa-free entry benefits.

By taking these steps, they can better position the CNMI as a preferred destination for Chinese tourists and capitalize on the unique advantages of our visa-free entry program while it still exists.

I am uncertain as to why these groups and individuals that are focused on the China market have not taken these steps. However, I can speculate on what may be a few possible reasons.

■ One possibility is that travel to the CNMI may still be restricted (directly or indirectly) by the Chinese government due to our Casino Gaming industry (or what's left of it). The CNMI was blacklisted a few years back, and it is unclear if this ban has been lifted. Many had warned these local business groups that casino gaming could have an adverse effect on attracting Chinese tourists when IPIH was making their push. Sadly, at that time they either sat silent or outright encouraged it. To emphasize again, the blacklisting and halting of tourists

See VISA-FREE on Page 7

From vinyl to vegan—Embracing wellness in the digital age

By REBECCA LIBAUSKAS
Tribune News Service

Rebecca Libauskas is a climate research specialist for the PETA Foundation.

Remember the crinkle of the wrapper when opening a brand-new CD? What about the comforting smell of a bookstore and the satisfying weight of a new paperback in your hands?

These are the moments of non-screen joy that many of us hold dear as sacred childhood memories. It's no wonder that Gen Z is breathing life back into the vinyl, CD, Polaroid and print book industries: We crave a connection to the physical world. As we celebrate National Wellness Month in August, let's take a step away from our screens and embrace the joy of unplugged activities. And let's use this digital detox to connect with—and protect—the planet and all its inhabitants.

Experts found that excessive smartphone use can alter the brain, according to WebMD. Each scroll or swipe releases dopamine, affecting the same brain areas that respond to addictive drugs like cocaine. This can lead to increased stress, anxiety and even depression. Logging off can do us good. So, instead of scrolling social media, let's stroll with our animal companions or visit a nature preserve to appreciate animals in their natural homes.

When it's time to eat, forget the meal-delivery apps. Instead, visit your local farmer's market or grocery store for healthy vegan foods, including legumes such as lentils and chickpeas, nuts like almonds and walnuts, whole grains like quinoa and oats and fruits like berries and avocados. Basing our meals around foods like these can support mental health and overall well-being. A study in the journal Nutritional Neuroscience even suggests that going vegan might help reduce anxiety and stress. So why not feed your senses with a hearty lentil chili, creamy avocado pasta or a savory quinoa salad?

Choosing healthy, sustainable and compassionate foods also supports our mental wellness because it empowers us to help curb the climate catastrophe and cruelty to animals. Every bite counts: The University of Oxford published a study that found that meatless sausages and burgers are up to 10 times more planet-friendly than their fleshy counterparts. The study evaluated greenhouse gas emissions, land use and water stress. This should come as no surprise when we consider that animal agriculture pollutes air, water, land, ecosystems and soil while causing suffering and death to billions of vulnerable animals.

Compassion is more than clicking a "like" button. Going vegan actively spares animals from confinement in cramped, filthy conditions, agonizing procedures like castration without painkillers and terrifying deaths. When we go vegan, we can breathe a sigh of relief knowing we are not funding this cycle of misery. We can keep the kindness going by preparing a vegan meal for a local soup kitchen or a friend stuck at home and letting them know how eating plants helps animals and our health.

In addition to enjoying delicious vegan meals, we can opt for animal-friendly, screen-free entertainment by visiting an animal sanctuary (ensure that it's accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries), or by purchasing tickets to an animal-free circus. Instead of exploiting animals like elephants and tigers, these thrilling shows feature skilled human performers such as tightrope walkers, trapeze artists and jugglers who consent to participate —something animals don't and can't do. We can also refuse to participate in cruel attractions like taking selfies with baby tigers or elephant rides. Every ticket to such gimmicks bankrolls animals' suffering.

Giving back to the community beats hours of scrolling through TikTok. Studies reveal that volunteering boosts happiness and life satisfaction. And participating in volunteer activities can build social connections and foster a deeper sense of purpose. Many animal shelters rely on volunteers to do laundry, clean kennels and walk homeless animals. Or you could offer to walk a lonely dog whose guardian is away all day. These animals deserve attention, exercise and friendship, too.

When we unplug from our devices, we discover real connections—and countless ways to make the world a better place.

Congress must get serious about its capacity or cede power to courts

The Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down a cornerstone of administrative law known as the Chevron doctrine represents a seismic shift in the balance of power between the three branches of government.

After 40 years of relying on federal agencies to interpret legislative ambiguities when implementing regulations, it's now up to courts to discern congressional intent. The Supreme Court did not "return" power to Congress, but it did put the onus on an under-resourced legislative branch to be much more clear in writing laws. If Congress fails to exercise its lawmaking power, it will cede power to the judiciary.

As the "first branch," Congress must now reassess its ability to fulfill this increased responsibility effectively. A recent House hearing highlighted the urgency of this issue: Witnesses called for Congress to increase its resources to ensure that lawmakers can respond to the needs of constituents, engage in effective lawmaking and maintain robust oversight.

Even with a spotlight on its diminished capacity, the House began summer recess early after failing to pass its latest legislative branch appropriations bill, underscoring the difficulty in securing the necessary funding to strengthen congressional operations. Provisions to increase funding for member and staff salaries should not be controversial, but are typically dead on arrival, leading to chronic underfunding and a congressional "brain drain" that has crippled the institution.

After decades of underinvestment, Congress must rebuild its workforce and equip its employees with the tools they need. The legislative branch operates with roughly 1/120th of the resources of the executive branch. The legislative branch has only 31,000 employees across the House, Senate and support agencies with an annual budget of $7 billion, while the executive branch employs 2.97 million individuals and operates with trillions of dollars annually. Funding for congressional operations has not kept pace with other increases in government spending, causing further imbalances and resource constraints.

Legislative branch appropriations have increased only 50 percent from fiscal 2001 to fiscal 2022 while non-defense discretionary spending grew by over 90% in the same period. And most increases in the legislative branch budget went to maintaining buildings and policing the Capitol rather than enhancing legislative capacity.

This constrained funding has taken a toll on the institution and its capacity. From 2011 to 2021, House staff salaries were effectively cut 20% when adjusting for inflation while the cost of living in the nation's capital significantly increased. And since the original Chevron decision in the 1980s, Congress has seen a 41% reduction in House committee staff and a 25% downsizing in critical support offices like the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accountability Office.

This decades-long lack of investment has also coincided with an increase in legislative activity and oversight. The number of legislative drafting requests to the House Office of Legislative Counsel has surged by 76% since the 115th Congress, while the number of proposed amendments has increased by 39%. Despite this growing workload, the Office of Legislative Counsel's operating budget has increased by only 17% when adjusted for inflation.

Congress must build on recent modernization efforts to enhance its capacity and reassert its legislative authority. To provide stability, Congress could mandate that annual legislative branch appropriations increase proportionally with non-defense discretionary spending each fiscal year. Implementing this policy beginning in fiscal 2025 would tie legislative funding growth to the overall growth in federal discretionary budgets. Excluding the Capitol Police funding from this proportional growth policy would account for its unique budget needs.

This approach would prevent legislative capacity from lagging and enable investments in staff, technology, operations and infrastructure to support congressional duties. Stable funding would allow congressional offices and agencies to better project budgets over the long term and—most importantly—fortify the first branch of government's ability to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities.

The overturning of Chevron is a wakeup call for a Congress that has often found it difficult to invest in itself or hold its constitutional ground. The ball is on Congress' court, but if lawmakers don't step up, it will be the courts that run the game.

By TAYLOR J. SWIFT
The Fulcrum

Swift is director of government capacity at POPVOX Foundation.

VISA-FREE

From page 6

from China lies directly at the feet of the proponents of casino gaming, not this administration.

■ Another potential reason could be connected self-interests within the CNMI that aim to corner the China market by not pushing for tourists to transit through Korea, Hong Kong, or Japan on known carriers. These groups might aim to ensure public sentiment drives a push for direct China-CNMI flights by stifling transit travel to the CNMI. These direct flights would likely be fully controlled by those interests. A direct flight owned and operated by a local tour company would enable them to fully capture the tourists' dollars at all levels—airfare, hotel, F&B, optional tours, etc.

■ A final reason could be the avoidance of enhanced scrutiny that would occur in transit locations like Korea, Japan, or Hong Kong on known carriers. This scrutiny might not exist in direct flights from China or may be more easily avoidable. Items such as alcohol, tobacco, and drugs along with human trafficking victims could potentially have more success getting from China to the CNMI via direct flights that subvert the security of transit locations.

These reasons are just guesses at this moment. What is known is that no significant public push for Chinese tourists to legally take advantage of the existing visa waiver for China tourists via transit has been taking place. Instead, a push for pro-PRC propaganda is being made along with a massive push strictly for direct flights from mainland China to the CNMI. I think that until and unless more restrictions such as EVS-TAP are put in place and visa-free travel is removed there should be no push for direct flights from China. The governor has shared this sentiment publicly.

Let us put an end to the misinformation suggesting that a pivot away from over-reliance on China for tourism is what caused the decline. This pivot is merely a sound business decision aimed at preventing a recurrence of our current situation. The decline in tourists from China to the CNMI is directly attributable to pandemic regulations, blacklisting due to casino gaming, and what seems to be a lack of effort by the business community to promote transit travel to the CNMI.

HARRIS

From page 6

they signaled a sensitivity to Palestinian lives that is too rare in Washington.

Harris also promised to revive a bipartisan border security bill that Trump sabotaged and to sign a bill to restore reproductive freedom and reverse the effect of the Supreme Court's overruling of Roe vs. Wade. Trump, of course, has boasted that because of his three appointments to the court "I was able to kill Roe vs. Wade." Finally, Harris promised that "building that middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency."

As this compressed campaign continues, Harris will be pressed to provide additional details about her policies. She also must—and we're confident she will—hold news conferences and sit down for interviews that will allow her to outline her agenda. A televised debate with Trump on Sept. 10 will also offer her the opportunity to use her prosecutorial persuasion skills to contrast her vision for the country with that of the former president (such as it is).

But the challenge posed by Harris' acceptance speech was to present herself to a national audience as a competent and committed leader who—unlike her unsavory opponent—can be trusted with the presidency. By that standard the speech was a resounding success.

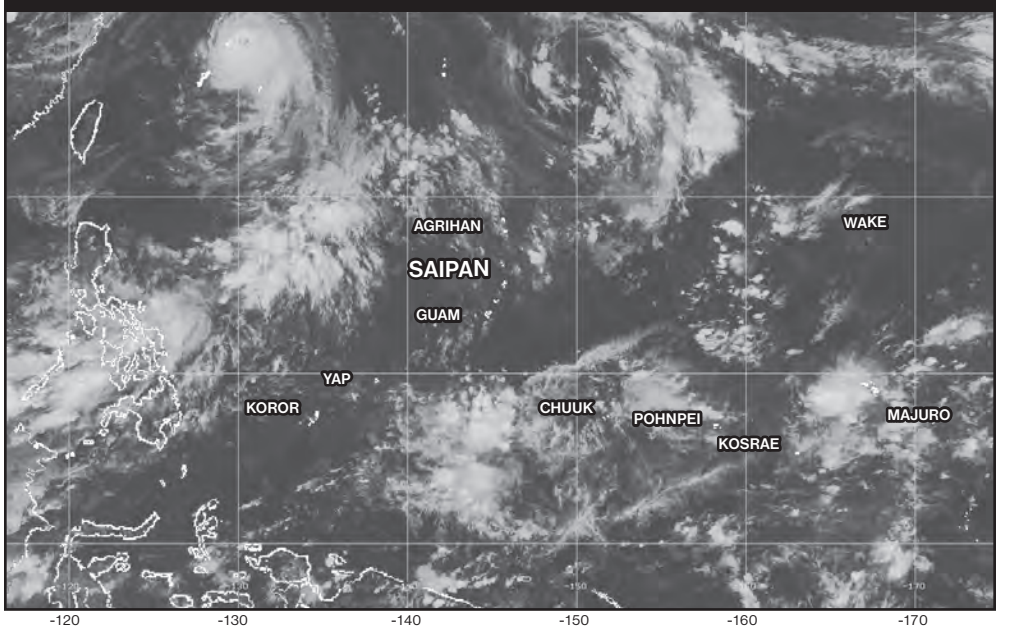
©2024 Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.
87º 81º	86º 80º	86º 80º	86º 80º	85º 80º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:53 AM TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A currently dissipating cell of convection popped over northern CNMI tonight. This cell is expected to be over the water around mid morning. Winds are anticipated to be a bit stronger today at 10 to 15 mph, this will inhibit island convection. Island convection may still occur, however if it does, it will be fairly short lived and on the western sides of the Mariana Islands. Combined seas remain at 2 to 4 feet, and generally benign.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:33 AM	2:11 PM	-
Thursday	1:30 AM	3:07 PM	-
Friday	2:28 AM	3:59 PM	-
Saturday	3:24 AM	4:45 PM	-
Sunday	4:18 AM	5:27 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
Paris	Showers	82° / 64°
Busan	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 68°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	79° / 62°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:10 AM	High Tide	1.84
9:18 AM	Low Tide	0.02
5:14 PM	High Tide	1.78
10:02 PM	Low Tide	1.46

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

WHAT IS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM?

How a summit for the world's tiniest nations became a global draw

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—As leaders of Pacific nations were welcomed to their annual meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, on Monday, they were greeted first by torrential rain and then by an earthquake.

The magnitude 6.9 quake was deep enough not to cause damage, but the long shudder and ankle-deep water served as a reminder of the natural vulnerabilities of many of the member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, who are locked in an existential struggle for economic and environmental survival.

It also underscored the tension at the heart of an event that once barely captured the world's notice and now draws delegations from dozens of countries across the globe—the way a fierce skirmish for geopolitical influence in the South Pacific among major powers further afield threatens to overtake local concerns, often to island leaders' dismay.

"We don't want them to fight in our backyard here. Take that elsewhere," Baron Waqa, the forum's secretary-general and a former president of Nauru, told reporters last month.

Still, there are more than 1,500 delegates from more than 40 countries at this year's meeting of Pacific member states, all hoping to further their agendas in a region where oceans, resources and strategic power have grown increasingly contested.

Founded in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum brings together 18 member states to discuss and coordinate responses to the issues confronting a remote and diverse region, who know that their countries—with populations as small as 1,500 people—attract more notice on the global stage when they speak with one voice. Its leaders—from Pacific Island nations, some of them among the world's most imperiled by rising seas, as well as Australia and New Zealand—have long been at the forefront of urging action on climate change.

For the first few decades of the forum's existence, the annual meetings of its leaders largely escaped wider notice. In recent years that has changed, regular forum-goers say: China's campaign of aid, diplomacy and security agreements with leaders across the Pacific has prompted a rapid expansion of the size and scope of the organization and its meetings.

This week's summit features the forum's largest ever delegation from China and a sizeable deputation from the United States, led by Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell.

AP PHOTOS

Leaders assemble for a photo at the opening of the annual Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa, speaks at the opening of the annual Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Both countries are among 21 "dialogue partners"—a group of nations with interest in the region—in the forum. There is a waiting list for entry, but applications are currently closed while the forum reviews its structure. Observers said Monday that a tiered system—reflecting partners' genuine interests and involvement in the Pacific—was a possibility.

"We've been mindful that our region is of great interest from a geopolitical perspective over the last few years or so," Mark Brown, the Cook Islands prime minister and outgoing chair of the forum, told Islands Business this month. "But the security issues that are seen by our bigger development partners are not the same security issues that we consider as important."

Where large powers might attend the forum seeking to curry influence while undermining others' sway, the focus of the region's leaders sits squarely where it always has been: the perils of climate change and rapidly rising seas.

Reminders are everywhere in the Tongan capital, Nuku'alofa—metal water bottles supplied as keepsakes to delegates are labeled "one less plastic bottle," but at each meeting and meal, plastic bottles of water are distributed. Rising seas and natural disasters, as in many Pacific Island nations, have contaminated rainwater and groundwater and made them unsafe to drink.

This year, the topic has another champion—the United Nations secretary-general, António Guterres, who in a speech at Monday's opening ceremony decried "humanity treating the sea like a sewer" and applauded Pacific leaders and young people for declaring a climate emergency and calling for action.

Some leaders tried to bring pressing issues at home to center stage: The Tongan prime minister and incoming forum chair, Siaosi Sovaleni, spoke on Monday of the health and education challenges confronting his country—and echoed throughout the Pacific.

Other topics include the legacy of nuclear horrors in the region, the cost of living and debt, and regional security—including a Pacific police training center scheduled for construction in Brisbane, Australia, that is seen as a direct challenge to China's eagerness to equip the law enforcement agencies of some island nations.

Fiji's prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, in June referred to the confluence of problems—also including transnational drug trafficking in his assessment—as a "polycrisis," with each challenge exacerbating others.

But the Forum's most fraught matter is likely to be the ongoing unrest in New Caledonia. Deadly violence flared in the French territory in May over a longstanding independence movement and Paris' efforts to quash it. A failed attempt by Pacific leaders to visit the capital, Noumea, ahead of the summit has further inflamed tensions.

Longtime forum watchers say the test for major powers at the event is whether their leaders can engage in the "Pacific way," a kind of humble consensus politics that centers on relationships and holds at its heart the idea of the so-called Blue Pacific family—island nations linked by shared culture and heritage, and distinct from the wider Indo-Pacific, whose interests are seen as more disparate and remote.

Raised eyebrows greet summit participants who are loud, pushy, or over-eager in vying for sway. "There is a way that Pacific countries do business with each other and it should be something that we'd like the rest of the world to acknowledge," Brown, the Cook Islands leader, told Islands Business.

But the leaders are pragmatic that global interest in the Pacific is here to stay.

"It needs to be something the world pays attention to. It's not the way it used to be," New Zealand's foreign minister, Winston Peters, told The Associated Press last week. "We've been a lucky people and a lucky theater. We must do our utmost to secure that in the long term."

Preparation are made before the start of the annual Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Leaders pose for a photo at the Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, August 26, 2024.

Business

Island Skin Solutions brings expert skincare to Marianas

From facials to hair loss treatments, and from Botox to tattoo removals, residents looking for a local go-to for quality skincare services and products need only to visit the village of Puerto Rico to find their fix.

Located in the Marina Heights 2 building, Island Skin Solutions & Wellness Clinic is the islands' premier medical skincare and wellness clinic, offering a wide range of treatments, including facials, microneedling, laser hair and tattoo removal, botox and filler injections, and more.

The clinic first opened its doors in 2021, when owner and nurse practitioner Shawna Brennfleck decided to continue the dermatology work started by Laura Maroney, a former dermatology nurse practitioner at Medical Associates of the Pacific.

"When Laura worked with us in family practice, I was able to shadow her for dermatology as well as for aesthetic treatments. And the first time that I did it on my own, I just loved it. I love the way that you can transform someone's skin and the way that they look, and the best part about that is the confidence that it gives them," said Brennfleck.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Skin Solutions medical professionals Shawna Brennfleck, left, and Cherie Moses.

Brennfleck, who holds certifications in Botox and dermal fillers and has had training in hair loss treatments, conducts the clinic's medical treatments which includes injections, skin biopsies, and cyst removals. Meanwhile, Cherie Moses, a former Rota resident and a medical aesthetician with over 15 years of experience, specializes in the clinic's aesthetic treatments, which includes microneedling, lasers, hydrafacials and chemical peels.

Also available at the clinic are medical-grade skincare products from quality brands such as MDPen, SkinBetter, and The Perfect Derma.

"If you're interested in finding out more about what we offer and how we can help you feel your best self, visit us and we can look at your skin, offer you an explanation for our procedures, and advise on treatments and products that we think may work best for you and your goals," said Brennfleck.

Throughout the month of August, Island Skin Solutions is offering special promos of $100 off their BioRePeel packages and 20% off neuromodulators, the class of medications that includes Botox.

A full menu of their services and products can be found on their website, islandskinsolutions.com. For residents of Tinian, Rota, and Guam, Island Skin Solutions offers virtual consultations and online ordering.

Island Skin Solutions is located on the ground floor of the MH2 Building, sharing an office with the Medical Associates of the Pacific. They are open Monday-Friday from 9am to 3pm by appointment. For more information or to book an appointment, call (670) 323-9000, or message @islandskinsolutions on Facebook or Instagram. ***(PR)***

Canada imposes a 100% tariff on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles, matching the US

TORONTO (AP)—Canada announced Monday it is launching a 100% tariff on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles, matching U.S. tariffs imposed over what Western governments say are China's subsidies that give its industry an unfair advantage.

The announcement came after encouragement by U.S. national security advisor Jake Sullivan during a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Cabinet ministers Sunday. Sullivan is making his first visit to Beijing on Tuesday.

Trudeau said Canada also will impose a 25% tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum. "Actors like China have chosen to give themselves an unfair advantage in the global marketplace," he said.

One of the Chinese-made EVs imported into Canada is from Tesla, made at the company's Shanghai factory, though the U.S. company could avoid the tariff by switching to supplying Canada from factories in the U.S. or Germany.

Chinese brands are not yet a player in Canada. However, Chinese EV giant BYD established a Canadian corporate entity last spring and has indicated it intends to try and enter the Canadian market as early as next year.

Chinese officials are likely to raise concerns about the American tariffs with Sullivan as Beijing continues to repair its economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. President Joe Biden in May slapped major new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum and medical equipment.

Commemorate the essence of a life well-lived and honor the legacy of your loved ones with an **Obituary** in the Saipan Tribune.

Our affordable rates include our expert design services and a permanent online space on the saipantribune.com.

For inquiries, please contact our advertising specialists at (670) 235-8747 or sales@saipantribune.com

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Back-to-work order issued for 2 major Canada railroads

TORONTO (AP)—The Canadian arbitrator appointed to resolve a messy railroad labor dispute to protect the North American economy has ordered employees at the country's two major railroads back to work so both can resume operating.

Saturday's order means Canadian National will be able to continue operating the trains it restarted Friday morning just over a day after it locked out workers. But Canadian Pacific Kansas City likely won't be able to restart its operations before 12:01 a.m. Monday, when workers were ordered to return.

Railroads play a crucial role in the economy with CPKC and CN delivering more than CA$1 billion (US$730 million) worth of shipments a day and carrying billions of dollars of goods between the U.S. and Canada every month. Even though both companies' trains in the United States and Mexico continued operating, the lockouts caused a significant disruption. A number of smaller short-line freight railroads that handle local deliveries continued operating across Canada but were unable to hand off shipments to either of the major railroads while they were idle.

The Teamsters union representing workers said that it will comply with the Canada Industrial Relations Board order and send its members back on the job, but it will also move forward with a legal challenge of the arbitration order.

"This decision by the CIRB sets a dangerous precedent. It signals to corporate Canada that large companies need only stop their operations for a few hours, inflict short-term economic pain, and the federal government will step in to break a union," said Paul Boucher, President of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, which represents more than 9,000 engineers, conductors and dispatchers at both railroads.

Life & Style

Diddy seeks to have producer's lawsuit tossed

By ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

Sean "Diddy" Combs asked a federal judge Monday to throw out a lawsuit from a music producer who accused the music mogul of a broad pattern of sexual abuse and other misconduct.

The lawsuit filed in February by Rodney "Lil Rod" Jones—one of many filed against Combs in the past year—is overrun with "tall tales," "lurid theatrics," "legally meaningless allegations" and "blatant falsehoods" whose intent is only to "generate media hype and exploit it to extract a settlement," according to the motion to dismiss filed in federal court in New York.

» Says it's full of 'blatant falsehoods'

The case fails to establish that Jones has standing to sue, does not include essential details including times and places of the incidents described and "fails to make a single viable claim," according to the motion.

Several lawsuits alleging sexual and other abuse against Combs had already been filed when Jones sued in February, but the circumstances surrounding the hip-hop star have grown more dire since.

Combs

In March, simultaneous raids on Combs' homes in Florida and California led to the revelation that he was the subject of a federal criminal sex trafficking investigation that is ongoing.

And in May, CNN aired 2016 hotel security video that showed him punching, kicking and dragging the R&B singer Cassie, who was his protege and longtime girlfriend at the time. The incident closely matched a description in a lawsuit she filed in November that was settled the following day but set off intense scrutiny of Combs.

A few days after the video's airing, Combs posted an apology video on social media saying he was "truly sorry" and his actions were "inexcusable."

Jones' sprawling lawsuit, which also names Combs' son and several of his business associates as defendants, describes a year he spent in the music mogul's life in Los Angeles and Miami in the process of producing an album in 2022 and 2023.

Mariah Carey's mother and sister died on the same day

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mariah Carey's mother Patricia and sister Alison both died on the same day, the singer said Monday.

"My heart is broken that I've lost my mother this past weekend. Sadly, in a tragic turn of events, my sister lost her life on the same day," the Grammy-winning singer said in a statement.

» The singer says her 'heart is broken'

"I feel blessed that I was able to spend the last week with my mom before she passed," the statement continued. "I appreciate everyone's love and support and respect for my privacy during this impossible time."

The Times Union reported Monday that Alison, who was largely estranged from Carey, died at 63 from complications with her organ function and that she had been in hospice care.

People Magazine first reported the news of their deaths and Carey's statement.

Patricia was a Juilliard-trained opera singer who Carey credits as an inspiration to her from a young age.

AP
Mariah Carey appears with her mother Patricia and daughter Monroe during a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on Aug. 5, 2015.

"I would sing little tunes around the house, to my mother's delight. And she always encouraged me," she wrote in her 2020 memoir, "The Meaning of Mariah Carey."

Patricia was previously married to Alfred Roy Carey, the singer's father. The parents divorced when the "Vision of Love" singer was 3. Carey grew up in Suffolk County on Long Island and lived primarily with her mother after her parents' divorce. Her father died of cancer in 2002 at age 72.

Carey detailed her complicated relationship with her mother and her sister in her memoir, in which she wrote that she and her mother often clashed, causing her to feel "so much pain and confusion," and accused her sister of putting her in unsafe situations as a child.

"Like many aspects of my life, my journey with my mother has been full of contradictions and competing realities. It's never been only black-and-white—it's been a whole rainbow of emotions," Carey wrote in the book. "Our relationship is a prickly rope of pride, pain, shame, gratitude, jealousy, admiration and disappointment. A complicated love tethers my heart to my mother's."

Carey maintained contact with her mother and even recorded a duet of "O Come All Ye Faithful/Hallelujah Chorus" for the singer's second Christmas album in 2010.

Rapper Sean Kingston and his mother arraigned on fraud and theft charges

MIAMI (AP)—Rapper Sean Kingston and his mother pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of defrauding multiple businesses of more than $1 million.

Kingston, whose real name is Kisean Anderson, and his mother, Janice Turner, entered the pleas during an arraignment hearing before Broward Circuit Judge Ernest Kollra, the Sun Sentinel reported. Bond had already been set at $90,000 in a previous hearing, and Kollra did not make any changes, the newspaper said.

The performer and his mother pleaded not guilty to organized fraud and grand theft charges.

Kingston was originally arrested in Fort Irwin, California, in May on a warrant issued by the Broward Sheriff's Office after a SWAT team raided his home in Southwest Ranches.

Kingston, 34, and Turner, 61, were accused of defrauding a jewelry business, a luxury bed company, a used luxury and exotic car dealership and a luxury microLED TV company since October 2023, arrest warrants said.

AP
Sean Kingston, right, and his mother Janice Turner arrive at the 40th anniversary American Music Awards, Nov. 18, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Kingston and his mother are expected back in court Oct. 11, the newspaper said. They are also facing related charges in federal court.

Kingston broke into the music scene at the age of 17 in 2007 with the hit "Beautiful Girls," which laid his lyrics over the musical track of "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King.

Family members don't support transgender relative

DEAR ABBY: My young adult child came out to us as transgender several months ago. My husband and I, along with her sibling, are supportive and love her unconditionally.

She recently decided to share the news with her grandparents, sending a heartfelt email along with a couple of resources specifically for grandparents. One grandparent has been completely supportive, immediately started using the correct name and pronouns, began doing some research and continues to treat her as the amazing young adult she is.

The other grandparents sent a text that pretty much said, "We love you because you're family, but we don't really support you." They have had no contact since. My child is extremely disappointed, and my heart breaks for her. She (and we) knows she may lose friends and family over this, but I guess we always hoped grandparents' love was unconditional. What advice do you have for her and for us to continue to support her?

UNCONDITIONALLY IN OREGON

DEAR UNCONDITIONALLY: Your daughter is fortunate to have loving, supportive parents, siblings and ONE grandparent who is willing (and able) to accept her as her true self. She needs to be prepared for the fact that not everyone will do that.

This other set of grandparents appear to be less open to learning and less flexible in what they are able to accept. Your daughter should continue on her own path and not permit their judgments to define her. If she can do that, she'll be happier.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my husband and I relocated to my hometown, which I left 40 years ago. We are happy with our choice to return. Our problem is my friend "Shirley," who I have known since grade school. Shirley has always been a high achiever, but lately she has been taking credit for our positive life decisions.

At the dinner party we threw to thank neighbors and childhood friends for supporting us through our move, Shirley dominated the conversation about her role. When I reconnect with former classmates, if she is around, she inserts herself and makes the conversation about her, or puts me down by making passive-aggressive comments.

Shirley's had a rough life, so I have chalked it up to her needing a win. But now she's doing this with my husband, and it has crossed the line. She didn't do this when we lived out of state. What can I do to put our friendship back to a more equal footing?

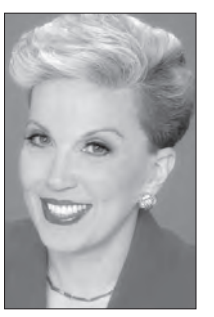
REACHING THE LIMIT IN OHIO

DEAR REACHING: Please reread your letter. The person you have described is not a "friend"—she's an insecure, jealous individual you happen to have known for a long time. She needs to be the center of attention regardless of how it makes you appear. Do NOT fool yourself into thinking you can make someone like this into a friend. The less you see of Shirley, the better off you and your husband will be.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



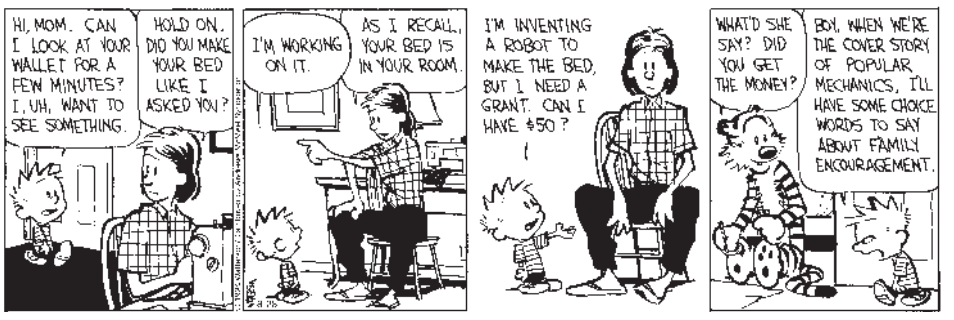
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COPYRIGHT 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Pastimes

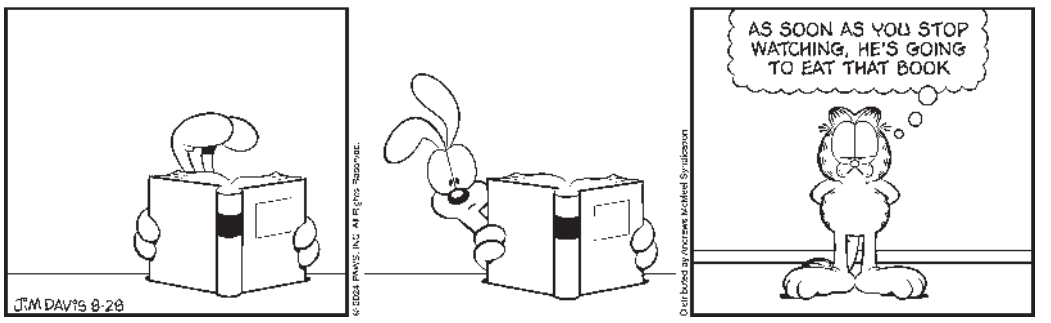
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM. CAN I LOOK AT YOUR WALLET FOR A FEW MINUTES? I, UH, WANT TO SEE SOMETHING.
HOLD ON. DID YOU MAKE YOUR BED LIKE I ASKED YOU?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
AS I RECALL, YOUR BED IS IN YOUR ROOM.
I'M INVENTING A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED, BUT I NEED A GRANT. CAN I HAVE $50?
WHAT'D SHE SAY? DID YOU GET THE MONEY?
BOY, WHEN WE'RE THE COVER STORY OF POPULAR MECHANICS, I'LL HAVE SOME CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY ENCOURAGEMENT.

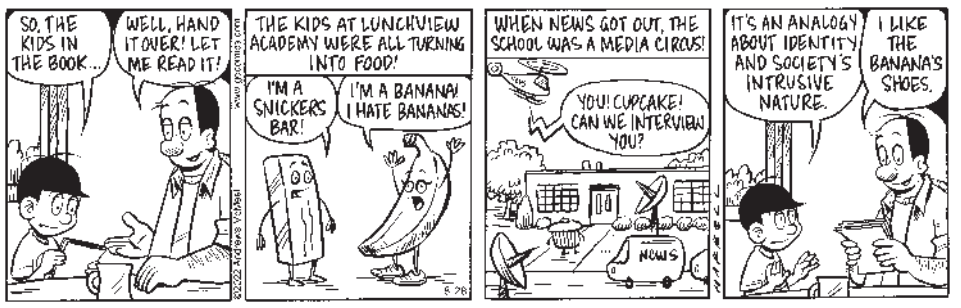
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, THE KIDS IN THE BOOK... WELL, HAND IT OVER! LET ME READ IT!
THE KIDS AT LUNCHVIEW ACADEMY WERE ALL TURNING INTO FOOD!
I'M A SNICKERS BAR!
I'M A BANANA! I HATE BANANAS!
WHEN NEWS GOT OUT, THE SCHOOL WAS A MEDIA CIRCUS!
YOU! CUPCAKE! CAN WE INTERVIEW YOU?
NEWS
IT'S AN ANALOGY ABOUT IDENTITY AND SOCIETY'S INTRUSIVE NATURE.
I LIKE THE BANANA'S SHOES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DANG – I DIDN'T WIN THE MEGA-LOTTO AGAIN.
YOU SHOULD GIVE UP TRYING TO STRIKE IT RICH THE EASY WAY.
I'LL BET YOU 300 MILLION DOLLARS YOU CAN'T SAY THAT WHILE JUGGLING CHAINSAWS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bikini tops
5 Young bloke
8 Recipe amts.
12 Piece of hardware
13 Actress Thurman
14 Water color?
15 Noise-free Amtrak offering
17 Engine noise
18 Hot and humid
19 Kathmandu native
21 Singer Lana — Rey
22 Lost traction
23 Lobbyists' org.
26 Quibble
28 Early Peruvian
31 Rocky outcrop
33 Web address
35 Up for it
36 Wash thoroughly
38 Gmail alternative
40 Decay
41 "Star Wars" royal
43 "That — close!"
45 Raises
47 Roast hosts
51 "Sad to say ..."
52 Radiators and axles, e.g.
54 Till bills
55 Verse by Pablo Neruda
56 Gum flavor
57 Canadian gas brand
58 Rocker Nugent
59 Global septet

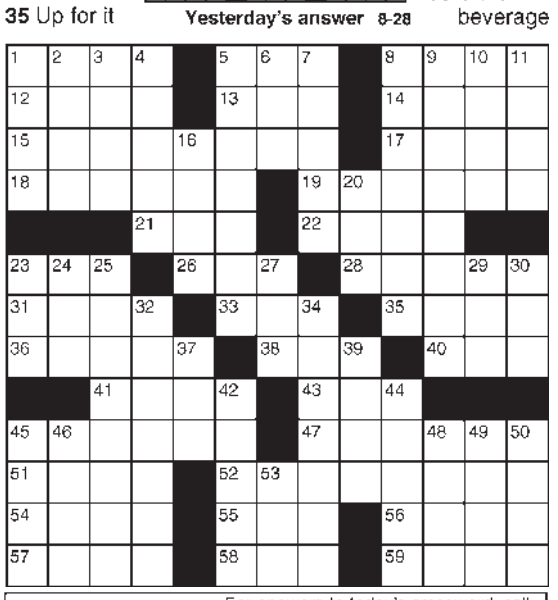
DOWN

1 Cookouts, briefly
2 Lopsided win
3 Caught in —
4 Lieu
5 "Elementary" actress
6 Docs' bloc
7 Mends, as socks
8 Drawing upon
9 Police cruiser
10 Knitting stitch
11 Draped garment
16 Fed. agents
20 Yalie
23 Mac rivals
24 Curved line
25 Offerings for auto buyers
27 — -la-la
29 "I love," in Latin
30 Mosquito barrier
32 "I suppose"
34 Reduced
37 Morsel
39 Genie's home
42 Natty necktie
44 Con games
45 Decrease
46 Spanish cheers
48 Huron neighbor
49 Sicilian volcano
50 Bygone fleet
53 Citric beverage

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	L	M	A	■	C	A	B	■	M	O	P	S
R	E	A	M	■	A	D	A	■	A	R	E	A
M	A	C	Y	G	R	A	Y	■	T	E	S	S
S	R	S	■	R	A	M	■	S	C	O	T	S
■	■	■	M	A	I	■	B	A	H	■	■	■
B	F	G	I	N	■	W	I	N	G	N	U	T
C	D	I	N	■	O	H	O	■	A	A	R	F
B	U	T	T	E	R	Y	■	S	M	E	L	T
■	■	■	G	E	T	■	L	I	E	■	■	■
C	A	D	R	E	■	O	A	R	■	M	R	I
C	P	I	E	■	M	A	K	E	G	O	O	D
M	L	M	L	■	I	K	L	■	L	L	I	L
A	S	S	N	■	A	S	S	■	E	E	L	S

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Armie Hammer, 38; Jason Priestley, 55; Jack Black, 55; Shania Twain, 59.

Happy Birthday: Visualize what you want to accomplish this year. Make plans, adjust to fit your budget and predetermine the schedule you can handle. Stick to details and refuse to let outside or poor influences lead you astray. Taking safety measures will prove valuable and encourage you to maximize every opportunity and situation you encounter this year. Don't bend to pressure; trust your instincts. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 28, 32, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a moment to think. Acting prematurely or due to outside pressure will come back to haunt you. Put your emotions and reason aside and stick to a workable budget. Anger or impulsive actions will not play out favorably. Consider your motives and the outcome you desire. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't jump to quickly into something that tempts you. If you have doubts, do your due diligence first. Put more emphasis on caring for matters that don't depend on others. Personal gain, learning, professional changes and physical improvements will fare better if you move forward alone. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Network and connect with people with something to offer. If you want change, step up and make it happen. Time spent complaining instead of sharing valid and innovative ideas and plans will result in a no-win situation. Use your power of persuasion to make a difference. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't share too much information. The element of surprise will give you the advantage you need to forge into the forefront. Knowing what you want, sizing up your situation and utilizing the people who can help you make it happen will get you closer to victory. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A little charm will go a long way. Attend functions, send emails, make calls and connect with those who can help you reach your goal. Talk money, be willing to compromise, and consider comparable and sound suggestions. Don't be flustered by an oversight; be grateful, fix the problem and proceed.✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Monitor what others do and make logical choices. What others allude to will take you on a journey that can cost you financially or emotionally. Look for unconventional ways to use your skills. Keep up with the times, be true to yourself and implement positive personal changes. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You know the rules, and if you don't, make a quick fix to ensure you have all the right answers. Getting along will have more to do with your capabilities than your beliefs. Leave nothing to chance, and you'll avoid getting caught in something that impedes you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Watch out; there are scammers, users and abusers around you. Keep your money and ideas parked someplace safe, and refuse to let anyone pry into your personal life or documentation. Whatever you do, be it an investment, medical issue or joint venture, leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Handle partnerships carefully. Be a good listener and make suggestions, but wait to step in and take on someone else's problems. Pay attention to upgrades, and stay ahead of any competition you encounter. Put your energy into whatever benefits you most. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Control emotional, financial or health matters. Clear up what's hanging over your head, and you'll gain peace of mind and a renewed sense of what you want to do next. Take control and live life your way. Love, romance and personal growth are favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Treat yourself to something that puts a skip in your step and gives you a vision of what you want to transpire. A positive attitude will help you carry yourself to the finish line with hope and a bright future. Opportunity knocks, so open the door. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a break and relax. It's time to rethink and rejuvenate. Distance yourself from anyone pressuring you to do something questionable. Don't dismiss what's important to you or give in to someone taking advantage of you. Consider your needs, keep your thoughts to yourself and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fashionable, decisive and opportunistic. You are reticent and underrated.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	7						3	1
8	1		2				6	5
		2				7		
	4	7		8	6		1	3
		5	1		3	8	4	
		3	4			6		7
	2	1	7	4	8			
			6	9	5	1	2	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	4	6	5	1	7	9	2
1	6	5	2	9	7	4	8	3
7	2	9	8	3	4	5	1	6
4	3	8	7	2	5	9	6	1
9	7	1	4	6	8	3	2	5
2	5	6	3	1	9	8	4	7
8	9	2	5	7	6	1	3	4
6	4	7	1	8	3	2	5	9
5	1	3	9	4	2	6	7	8

Difficulty: ★★ 8/27

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHERE ARE THE PHONE BOOTHS? Solution: 7 letters

N	T	E	A	S	S	I	S	T	A	N	C	E	R	Y
S	O	U	N	D	P	R	O	O	F	R	A	M	E	R
T	U	I	Ⓛ	O	V	R	L	O	C	A	T	E	W	A
A	C	N	T	Ⓐ	H	E	O	A	S	N	E	K	O	T
N	H	E	V	A	Ⓘ	P	R	V	B	U	S	Y	T	O
D	T	W	I	R	C	Ⓓ	Y	T	I	N	T	D	T	R
U	O	Y	W	E	S	I	B	A	I	D	R	O	N	E
P	N	O	I	A	S	N	N	U	P	S	E	O	E	T
R	E	R	F	C	C	N	I	U	I	T	E	R	I	R
E	N	K	I	O	S	K	E	C	M	L	T	D	N	A
S	G	A	I	D	S	N	O	P	K	M	D	G	E	U
S	I	N	R	E	I	R	A	N	G	E	O	I	V	Q
I	S	O	M	L	N	R	D	E	S	O	L	C	N	E
N	C	I	E	E	K	L	A	W	E	D	I	S	O	G
G	D	T	R	E	S	N	I	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/28

Advertised, Area Code, Assistance, Building, Busy, Cards, Coins, Communication, Convenient, Cord, Corner, Dial, Dimes, Door, Enclosed, Frame, Insert, Kiosk, Line Up, Locate, New York, Nickels, Park, Pay Phone, Pens, Pressing, Privacy, Provider, Quarter, Range, Rotary, Sidewalk, Sign, Soundproof, Stand-up, Street, Tokens, Touch-tone, Tower, Wi-Fi

Yesterday's Answer: Whiskers

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Royals sweep doubleheader with Guardians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Salvador Perez hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs as the Kansas City Royals completed a doubleheader sweep of Cleveland, beating the Guardians 9-4 on Monday night to pull within one game of first in the AL Central.

The Royals won the day game 4-3 as Bobby Witt Jr.'s 27th homer—and 11th since July 19—snapped a tie in the eighth inning.

In Game 2, Perez hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning—after nearly striking out—and then connected for his sixth career slam in the sixth off Pedro Avila.

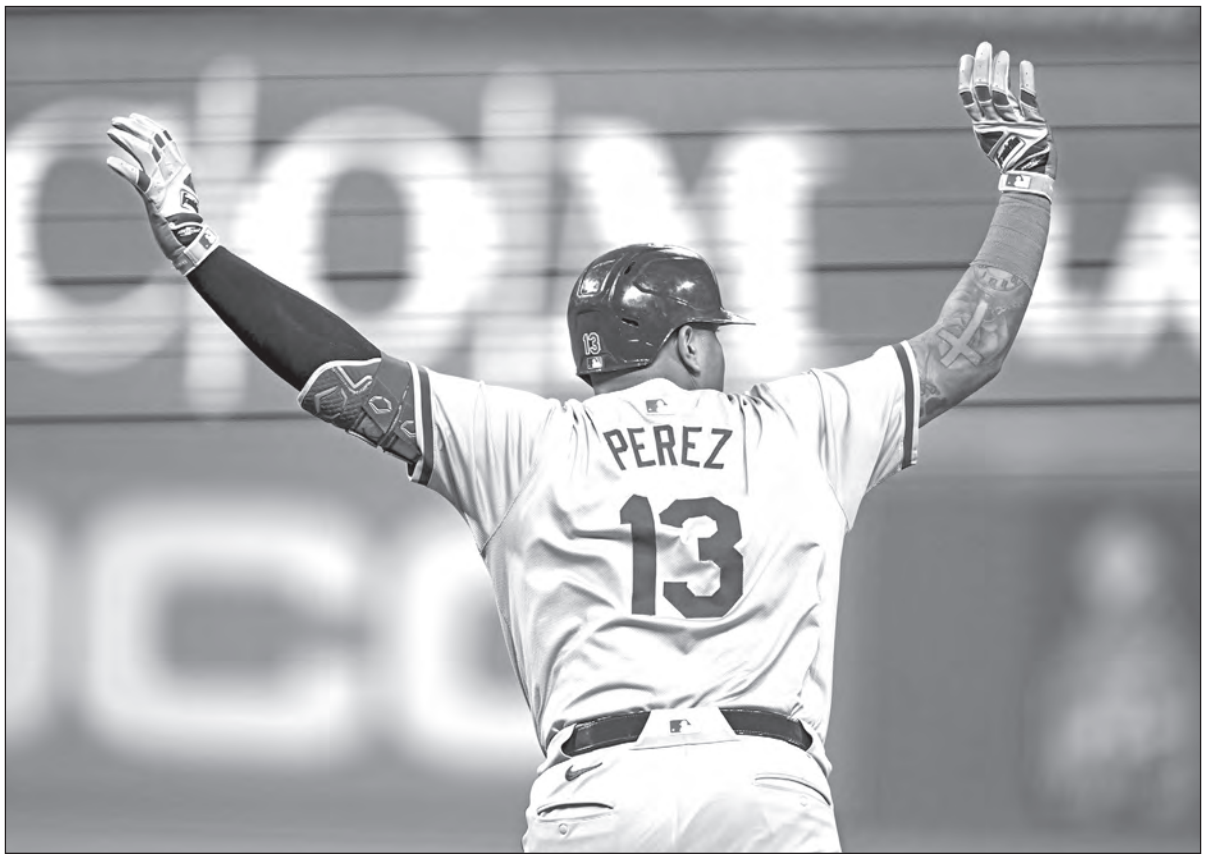
The nine-time All-Star catcher has 17 career multi-homer games, tying him with Hall of Famer George Brett for the most in Kansas City history.

Kansas City was nine games back in early July, but the Royals have chipped away at Cleveland's lead by posting an AL-best 22-13 record since the break.

The Guardians, who have led the division since April 14, dropped to 0-8 in doubleheaders this season.

Leading 5-4 in the sixth, the Royals loaded the bases and had a runner forced at the plate before Perez drove his 25th homer 457 feet into the bleachers. Perez's shot tied him with Frank White for the most slams in Royals history.

Jose Ramirez had three doubles, giving Cleveland's star third baseman two or more extra-base hits in 109 games to tie him with Tris Speaker for second in club history behind Earl Averill (135). Ram√≠rez has also reached 30 homers, 30 doubles and 30 steals in a season for the second time.



AP

Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez celebrates hitting a grand slam during the sixth inning of the second game of a baseball doubleheader against the Cleveland Guardians, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024, in Cleveland.

BLUE JAYS 4, RED SOX 1, 1st game
BLUE JAYS 7, RED SOX 3, 2nd game

BOSTON (AP)—Danny Jansen's former team beat his current one, when George Springer cleared the Green Monster with a 416-foot home run and seven Toronto pitchers combined on a four-hitter to beat Boston in the completion of a game that was suspended by rain in June.

George Springer hit a three-run homer - his second of the day—to key a five-run fifth inning and Toronto took two games by posting a victory to send Boston to their fifth straight loss.

Jansen made history as the first major leaguer to play for both teams in the same game, starting it as the Toronto catcher on June 26, when it was halted—with Jansen about to bat—in the second inning. The backup catcher was traded to Boston on July 27, and he was behind the plate when the game resumed on Monday after a delay of 65 days, 18 hours and 35 minutes.

In the second game with Toronto trailing 1-0, Springer hit a drive off reliever Brad Keller (0-4) that hooked around the Pesky Pole for his 19th homer to make it 3-1. Addison Barger followed with an RBI single and Ernie Clement added a run-scoring double to complete the big inning.

The Red Sox committed four errors and fell to 14-22 since the All-Star break. They're now 5 1/2 games behind Minnesota for the AL's third and final wild-card spot after dropping to 29-37 in games at Fenway Park.

Jose Berrios (13-9) won his fourth straight start, allowing three runs, two earned, on eight hits with six strikeouts and no walks in 7 2/3 innings. The Blue Jays have won six in a row. Brendon Little got the final four outs for his first career save.

YANKEES 5, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gleyber Torres hit a leadoff homer, Aaron Judge made a spectacular defensive play and New York beat Washington to spoil the major league debut of prized prospect Dylan Crews.

Judge added his 1,000th career hit as New York won for the fifth time in six games, moving two ahead of idle Baltimore atop the AL East. Austin Wells and Jazz Chisholm Jr. also went deep for the Yankees to back Nestor Cortes (8-10).

Anthony Volpe had a double and two singles, scoring twice on sacrifice flies by DJ LeMahieu. Alex Verdugo also had three hits.

CUBS 18, PIRATES 8

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Dansby Swanson hit a grand slam to cap an eight-run sixth inning, and Chicago had eight stolen bases—their most in a game in more than 100 years - on the way to an 18-8 victory over Pittsburgh.

Swanson's slam came off Domingo German, was the third of the shortstop's nine-year career—and second this season—and pushed the Cubs' lead to 9-2. Swanson also homered with the bases loaded on April 24 against Houston rookie Spencer Arrighetti.

The Cubs last had eight steals in 1913.

Rookie centre fielder Pete Crow-Armstrong led the way with three stolen bases as the Cubs won for the seventh time in 10 games. That raised his season total to 26 in 93 games. Crow-Armstrong has only been caught once this year.

PHILLIES 3, ASTROS 2, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning off Houston closer Josh Hader, and Philadelphia won in a matchup of division leaders.

Brandon Marsh homered for Philadelphia, which won its third straight. The Phillies entered leading the NL East by six games over Atlanta, while Houston began play 4 1/2 games ahead of Seattle in the AL West.

Shay Whitcomb had a pair of RBIs for Houston, which defeated Philadelphia in the 2022 World Series.

With runners on first and second and no outs, Harper lined the first pitch he saw from Hader (6-7), a 96mph sinker, to right field to score automatic runner Kyle Schwarber. Hader struck out the side in order in the ninth, finishing the inning by getting Schwarber looking on a sinker.

PADRES 7, CARDINALS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Manny Machado homered and drove in three runs, rookie Jackson Merrill also had three RBIs and San Diego defeated St. Louis.

Rookie starter Randy Vasquez (4-6) went six innings for the win, allowing two runs and six hits.

Machado hit a two-run homer in the first and an RBI double in the fifth. He also scored three runs.

Merrill, who launched a game-ending homer Sunday against the New York Mets, delivered a two-run single in the third and an RBI single in the fifth.

The Padres are 25-8 since July 20, a .758 winning percentage. That ties them with Arizona for the best record in the majors during that span. San Diego is a game behind the Diamondbacks for the top National League wild card.

TIGERS 6, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Spencer Torkelson hit a three-run homer during a five-run seventh inning, and Detroit beat Chicago to complete a four-game sweep and drop the majors' worst team to 31-101.

Parker Meadows led off the seventh with a homer off Jared Shuster (1-3) that tied the game at 2-all. Jace Jung hit a go-ahead RBI single before Torkelson greeted Justin Anderson with a 439-foot drive to centre field that made it 6-2.

The White Sox have lost eight of nine and recorded their 31st blown save, the most in the majors.

Torkelson finished 3 for 5, falling a triple short of the cycle.

Detroit right-hander Ty Madden gave up two runs, one earned, in five innings in his major league debut. The 24-year-old allowed four hits and three walks.

ROCKIES 3, MARLINS 2

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning, and Colorado beat Miami in a matchup of the NL's worst teams.

Colorado (49-83) and Miami (47-84), which entered the majors together in 1993, are both rebuilding and fielded lineups featuring young players. Griffin Conine, the son of former Marlins franchise icon Jeff Conine, made his major league debut as a pinch-hitter in the fifth inning. He struck out.

McMahon led off the sixth against Edward Cabrera (2-6) with a 438-foot drive to center field, his 17th homer of the season. It was the only extra-base hit of the game.

The Rockies' bullpen worked four scoreless innings. Jake Bird (2-2) pitched the sixth and Tyler Kinley got the final three outs for his seventh save.

BRAVES 10, TWINS 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Matt Olson hit a three-run homer and a two-run double for Atlanta in the first two innings against Bailey Ober before the game was stopped by a thunderstorm, and the Atlanta Braves beat the sputtering Minnesota Twins.

Max Fried (8-7) endured the 86-minute delay for his first win since June 23, retiring 12 straight batters over a stretch bridging the rain and finishing five innings with one earned run allowed.

Travis d'Arnaud hit a two-run homer and Marcell Ozuna had two runs and two RBIs for the Braves, who emphatically ended Ober's streak of 11 straight quality starts with four runs before he recorded an out.

Whit Merrifield, subbing in the leadoff spot for injured Michael Harris II, went 5 for 5 and began the game with a single. Three batters later, Ober (12-6) threw an 0-2 cutter that Olson drove 423 feet into the second deck above right-center field for his 23rd homer.

MARINERS 5, RAYS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Randy Arozarena smacked a three-run homer against his former team, Bryce Miller allowed two hits and tied a career high with 10 strikeouts over seven innings, and Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

Jorge Polanco added a solo home run, his 13th longball of the season, and backup infielder Leo Rivas added a two-out RBI single as the Mariners improved to 3-1 under new manager Dan Wilson.

Miller's 10 strikeouts matched the mark he's reached four times in his career, the last coming in April against the Braves. Miller (10-7) retired the side in order in five of his seven innings.

Josh Lowe had the only success against Miller with a solo homer in the second inning and a single in the fifth.

Arozarena was acquired from the Rays in late July ahead of the trade deadline with the hope of adding length to Seattle's batting order. After a solid start, Arozarena had struggled lately and was in a 4-for-39 slump with just one extra-base hit and one RBI in his previous 11 games entering Monday.

Perhaps seeing old friends helped. Arozarena spent some time in the Rays clubhouse before the game catching up with former teammates and Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash.

Then he delivered the blow that broke open the game.

With two outs in the third, Julio Rodriguez's routine grounder bounded under the glove of former Mariner Jose Caballero at third base. Cal Raleigh followed with a cue shot off the end of his bat that hit third base for an infield single.

Fans were still chuckling at Raleigh's hit when Rays starter Ryan Pepiot (7-6) left a cutter on the outer half of the plate and Arozarena drove it out to right field. It was just his second home run since being traded to Seattle and his first since July 29 - his third game with the Mariners.

Gauff begins title defense with easy win after two-match losing streak

NEW YORK (AP)—The chant rang out in cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday at the U.S. Open before Coco Gauff's first service game of her first match of her first Grand Slam tournament as a defending champion: "Here we go, Coco! Here we go!"

Coming to Flushing Meadows off a series of early exits at other events, Gauff already was down 1-0 to Varvara Gracheva, having dropped the match's initial game at love by making four groundstroke errors. What followed was a tough, tight game, featuring 14 points across eight minutes and three break chances for Gracheva.

The important part, of course, was that Gauff saved all of those break points, claimed that game, and suddenly was in complete control on the way to a 6-2, 6-0 victory that not only put the 20-year-old American in the second round but also told her—and everyone else—that her game is in better shape than it appeared lately.

"The last couple of weeks were tough, and I was like, 'I have to do this and do that, but I don't have to prove anything to anyone except myself.' So ... (these) two weeks are just about proving all the expectations that I have on myself," the No. 3-seeded Gauff said. "I have many more years coming back here and I'm not going to win every year. Just that perspective and just having the belief that I can—but not the expectation that I should."

Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament went about as well as possible for Gauff and another young American featured in Ashe, 13th-seeded Ben Shelton, a semifinalist a year ago who beat 2020 champion Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. It was the last U.S. Open match for Thiem, who turns 31 next week and is retiring after this season.

AP

Coco Gauff, of the United States, reacts after scoring a point against Varvara Gracheva, of France, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024, in New York.

"Obviously she plays with a lot of passion," Shelton, 21, said about Gauff. "You could tell that she cares out there. She's into it every time that she's on the court. I think that's something that the people love."

Gauff was not the only past U.S. Open champ on Monday's schedule: The night session in Ashe began with 2017 winner Sloane Stephens blowing a huge lead against Clara Burel and losing 0-6, 7-5, 7-5 after taking the first nine games, followed by Novak Djokovic—whose collection of 24 Slam titles includes last year's in New York—getting past Radu Albot 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

Seeded women's winners included No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time Australian Open champion who was the runner-up to Gauff a year ago in New York; No. 7 Zheng Qinwen, the women's gold medalist at the Paris Olympics earlier this month; No. 24 Donna Vekic, the silver medalist; No. 12 Daria Kasatkina; and No. 14 Madison Keys.

No. 9 Maria Sakkari stopped playing after one set because of an injured right shoulder. The highest-seeded man out of the bracket during the day session was No. 15 Holger Rune, who was eliminated by Brandon Nakashima of the U.S. 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Among the men's seeds advancing were No. 4 Alexander Zverev, the runner-up to Thiem four years ago; No. 6 Andrey Rublev; No. 8 Casper Ruud, the 2022 runner-up at Flushing Meadows; No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov; and No. 12 Taylor Fritz.

Zheng is enjoying a breakthrough season that began with a run to the final at the Australian Open in January and reached a peak when she claimed China's first Summer Games singles gold. Monday was difficult at the outset against 2019 French Open semifinalist Amanda Anisimova, but Zheng eventually came back to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"Everything starts at zero. You are not anymore the Olympic champion," Zheng said. "Just be humble and try to work, fight every single match, because if you don't fight, you have a big chance to lose."

That mirrors Gauff's approach as she returns to the site of her greatest triumph so far.

If she was trying to start from scratch after early exits in three events at the Paris Games—not that she wants to forget about that trip to France; Gauff wore a necklace with the Olympic rings during Monday's match—followed by a two-match skid on North American hard courts, Gauff did a good job of it.

This wasn't surprising to Gauff. Not at all. She knew she didn't play great in Toronto or Cincinnati in recent weeks. But she also could tell she was hitting balls well in practice.

"Usually that first round for me can sometimes set the tone for a tournament, whether you're playing well or not. ... I had a good mentality. Is this going to say I'm going to play great the next couple matches? Yes or no," Gauff said. "But I think the mentality I have going into this week will be there, and hopefully the execution stays there."

She only needed 66 minutes to win Monday, using some of her 10 aces to help erase all eight break points Gracheva accumulated, and compiling a 16-5 edge in winners.

"From the start, we kind of all knew that Coco was going to be an amazing player, and she's incredibly mature and carries herself in a way that I wish that I carried myself when I was her age," said Keys, 29, who lost to Stephens in the U.S. Open final seven years ago. "It's also very impressive how she's been able ... through all of the pressure and all of the expectation that's been put on her, continue to do as well as she has."

Meanwhile, Sloane Stephens was eliminated from the U.S. Open after a stunning first-round collapse.

The 2017 champion won the first nine games against Clara Burel of France before falling 0-6, 7-5, 7-5 on Monday night.

Stephens got the first night match on Arthur Ashe Stadium in this year's U.S. Open and it appeared she would end it quickly. The American won the first set in 21 minutes, then went up 3-0 in the second after breaking Burel the first two times she served.

Burel then broke in the next game, standing behind the baseline and breathing a long sigh of relief after finally get on the board. She broke again when Stephens was serving the match with a 5-4 lead, and again to win the second set.

Stephens again had a 5-4 lead and served for the match in the third set, but again Burel broke to start a streak of three straight games that gave her the match.

Stephens was eliminated in the first round for the second consecutive year.

16-year-old Californian Jovic beats Linette in the first round

NEW YORK (AP)—Iva Jovic, a 16-year-old from California, became the youngest American to win a women's main-draw match at the U.S. Open since 2000, eliminating 2023 Australian Open semifinalist Magda Linette of Poland 6-4, 6-3 on Monday.

"Surprised, but not surprised," Jovic said about the result against someone who's been ranked in the top 20.

"I just had a plan about what I was going to do before we started, and there weren't that many needs for crazy adjustments, because it was going well," Jovic said. "So just kind of sticking to that."

Katrina Scott of the U.S. was 16 when she won a match at the U.S. Open four years ago. Last year, Mirra Andreeva of Russia was 16 when she did it.

Here's one indication of Jovic's youth: She still is planning to enter the junior event later in the tournament. Here's another: Jovic is still in school, taking online courses through a program she described as "convenient and ... very lenient."

Jovic grew up participating in a bunch of sports, including soccer, gymnastics and swimming. But she gravitated to tennis, which she began learning alongside her older sister on courts built atop the apartment complex in Torrance, California, they lived in.

"I want to be the best that I can be," Jovic said. "Just get better every day, honestly. Just keep working. I'm on a good path, but there's a lot more to do."

She earned a wild-card entry for the main bracket at the year's last Grand Slam tournament by winning the U.S. Tennis Association Girls' 18s national championship. She also paired with Tyra Grant there to take the doubles title, which gave them a wild card for women's doubles at Flushing Meadows; the USTA granted Jovic and another American teen, Kaylan Bigun, a spot in the mixed doubles field, too.

Jovic and Grant teamed up to win junior doubles titles at the Australian Open in January and Wimbledon in July; they also were the runners-up at the French Open in June.

Jovic's favorite players are 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic—he's Serbian, and so are her roots; after the English portion of her news conference concluded Monday, she answered questions in Serbian—and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic.

Why?

"Djokovic, I mean, do I need to say? We all know how great he is," Jovic responded. "And then Belinda, she just takes the ball so early and her footwork is very cutting the angle, so she just makes her opponents feel kind of suffocated. That's what I would like to try to do."

Jovic would love the chance to have a conversation with Djokovic, but their lone interaction so far was when she asked if he would mind posing for a photo.

"I do have a selfie," she said with a smile. "It doesn't look great, but it's there."

Djokovic starts his bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title with straight-set win

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic began his bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title and tied Roger Federer with his 89th match win at the U.S. Open by defeating qualifier Radu Albot of Moldova 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 on Monday night.

The second-seeded Djokovic, again wearing a gray sleeve over his surgically repaired right knee, was competing for the first time since claiming an Olympic gold medal three weeks ago at the Paris Games, the last significant achievement that was missing from his resume.

Djokovic, a 37-year-old from Serbia, improved to 18-0 in first-round matches at Flushing Meadows and is now 89-13 overall at the hard-court tournament, which he's won four times, including a year ago. He's never lost earlier than the third round at the U.S. Open; Albot never has been past the third round in 30 appearances at majors.

The retired Federer went 89-14 in New York, with five consecutive championships from 2004 to 2008. He's the most recent man to win the U.S. Open at least twice in a row. Among men, only Jimmy Connors, who went 98-17, won more matches than Djokovic and Federer at the event.

Djokovic never has lost a Grand Slam match to someone ranked as low as No. 138 Albot. And Albot is now 0-12 against opponents ranked in the top 10.

Inaugural 4 Starz v-ball tourney underway

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 is underway with their opening day of games last Monday at the Agape Gymnasium.

The tourney is played this whole week until Saturday, Aug. 31, with the men's and women's playoffs and championships set for that day.

In last Monday's games on Court 1, The Bomba beat Agape 1, 25-21; Bench Warmers shot down Bikini Bangers, 25-16; Agape 1 edged Oasis, 25-14; 4 Starz silenced Tan Holdings, 25-11; Bench Warmers took down Fall Guys, 25-21; 4 Starz routed PIC Block Party, 25-19; Bikini Bangers overcame Chura, 25-20; and Fall Guys notched a win over Black Label, 25-11.

Then on Court 2, Rice Cracker drenched Oasis, 25-11; Tan Holdings just managed to slip past Agape 2, 28-26; The Bomba exploded, 25-20, over Rice Cracker; Agape 2 came back to win over PIC Block Party, 25-15; Agape 1 outlasted Rice Cracker, 26-25; Chura broke Black Label, 25-16; The Bomba drowned Oasis, 26-24; and Tan Holdings overpowered PIC Block Party, 25-12.

LEIGH GASES

Tan Holdings' Nahson Padhak, foreground, makes a kill past two Agape 2 players during one of two opening games of the 4 Starz Inaugural Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 is underway with their opening day of games last Monday at the Agape Gymnasium

The men's teams include Bench Warmers, Bikini Bangers, Fall Guys, Chura, Black Label, The Bomba, Rice Crackers, Agape 1, Oasis, 4 Starz, Tan Holdings, PIC Block Party, and Agape 2. The women's teams consist of Wave Riders, Lady Starz, Agape, Kiss My Ace, and Tan Holdings Volleybabez.

The tourney consists of two phases—the preliminary phase in which the 13 teams in the men's division are divided into three pools (A with five teams, B with four teams and C with four teams).

Every team within the pool will play against each other twice or thrice, one set, and best to 25 points. A cross play within B and C will occur challenging within.

The Top 2 teams from each pool and the two best third from will advance to the final phase. As a guide, a ranking system is in place to arrive at the final bracket of the quarter finals. Only eight teams will advance.

For the women's division of five teams, there are also two phases. The preliminary phase in which the five teams will play against each other once, best of three sets up to 25 points.

The Top 4 teams will advance to the Final Phase. As a guide, a ranking system is in place to arrive at the final bracket of the semifinals. Only four teams will advance to playoffs

4 Starz is a volleyball group that was formed last year, with an homage to its president's roots from the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan—hence the four stars within the sun of Japan's flag in their logo. The four stars represent the four states—Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap.

In an interview during the tourney, the group's president and tournament organizer, Nak Nakashima, said that the turnout of their first ever tourney was a success and came as a surprise—with 13 men's teams and five women's teams vying for a spot in the championship round.

He said the purpose of the tourney was to bring back indoor volleyball to the island. "We really want to play volleyball… and we're focused mostly on bringing back the sport. It's not really that active so that was our first focus—to bring back to sport," he said.

The Agape Gymnasium also hosts an open gym on Monday and Friday nights, and Nakashima said that they have players as young as 13 ask them when the next tournament is. "So, my wife kept pushing to start a tournament, and I said sure, let's try," he said.

He then said, "I appreciate pastor [Kok] H. Pang of Agape Christian School for the open gym and for setting aside dates just for the weeklong tournament."

NMI

From page 16

training for the aforementioned Mini Games in 2025.

"No other tournaments unfortunately. It was the last one for me this summer. We are both training hard for the upcoming Mini Games in Palau. We want to bring home a gold medal," he said.

Mister and Johnson started their campaign in the CBVA Men's Open by defeating Duni Valenzuela and Timmy Blanc, 21-14.

They then succumbed to John Graybill and Greg Moyer, 17-21, before bouncing back from their only loss of the tournament by taking down Clayton Dahlman and Christian Rosander-Kolb, 21-11. They then capped their elimination round assignments by besting Christopher Mcdonough and Adam Vagner, 21-17.

Mister said they trained with former professional beach volleyball player Casey Jennings during the week to prepare for the tournament.

"He ran us through a great warmup that helped us feel energized for the games but also prepared us mentally to get into the zone," he said.

The CBVA is California's premier beach volleyball tour. Founded in 1962, the CBVA was created to bring together all levels of beach volleyball players to compete in high-quality tournaments along the California coast.

JANDOC

From page 16

ership on the court, while third place GMP x Yuman's Justine Enano was the regular season MVP for his pinpoint accuracy and consistency.

The "Mythical 5" awards were also given.

Enano took home the Best Forward award along with Savemore's Daryll Foronda; the Best Guards were Frank Ferrer and Jhay-R Gatbonton; and the Best Center award was given to Emman Bondad.

The Best Coach award went to Savemore's Joel Saplan.

The Sportsmanship award was bestowed to Star Water.

Fourth place was Islander Rent A Car; third place was GMP x Yuman; the runner-up was Jacob's Bakeshop; and the champion was Savemore.

For 49-year-old Jandoc, he said of his award, "I feel good. My shots were always going in." He added that the strategy in the finals was "to just keep fighting until the end." As for their finals opponent Jacob's Bakeshop, he said, "I thought they weren't that tough, but actually they were very tough because most of the players are young and new."

The league, he said, "is the best league I've been in on Saipan."

For 25-year-old Enano's part, he said, "I'm very happy and thankful that I was part of the Mythical 5. For the season MVP award, I was shocked and also overwhelmed because as a basketball player, that's a big award and that's also my first ever MVP season here.

The season, he said, "was fun and full of excitement. As a team, we practiced and prepared for every game this season." As for the league, he said, "Everything was organized and all the teams that joined were really good."

He then thanked God, his wife for her support in his games, his family, his coach, and his teammates, and their team's sponsor, Mario Yumul. He said his awards were not just for him, but his team as well.

The construction worker at Golden Corp. is now playing in the semi-open league of the Win Pacific Corp. Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court in the Del Monte-One Pacific team.

LEIGH GASES

GMP x Yuman's Justine Enano poses with his regular season MVP trophy and Best Forward trophy during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 last Sunday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Championship team Savemore's Getsen Jandoc poses with his finals MVP trophy and championship trophy during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 last Sunday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	54	.591	–
Baltimore	76	56	.576	2
Boston	67	64	.511	10½
Tampa Bay	65	66	.496	12½
Toronto	65	68	.489	13½
Central Division				
Cleveland	75	57	.568	–
Kansas City	74	58	.561	1
Minnesota	72	59	.550	2½
Detroit	66	66	.500	9
Chicago	31	101	.235	44
West Division				
Houston	70	61	.534	–
Seattle	67	65	.508	3½
Texas	60	71	.458	10
Oakland	56	75	.427	14
Los Angeles	54	77	.412	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	77	54	.588	–
Atlanta	71	60	.542	6
New York	68	63	.519	9
Washington	59	73	.447	18½
Miami	47	84	.359	30
Central Division				
Milwaukee	75	55	.577	–
Chicago	66	66	.500	10
St. Louis	65	66	.496	10½
Cincinnati	63	68	.481	12½
Pittsburgh	62	69	.473	13½
West Division				
Los Angeles	78	53	.595	–
Arizona	75	56	.573	3
San Diego	75	58	.564	4
San Francisco	66	66	.500	12½
Colorado	49	83	.371	29½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royals sweep doubleheader with Guardians

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Inaugural 4 Starz v-ball tourney underway

PAGE 15

NMI duo wins CBVA men's open title

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson gave notice to the field for next year's Pacific Mini Games in Palau by winning the championship of the California Beach Volleyball Association Men's Open last Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Main Beach in Santa Cruz, California.

The two CNMI national beach volleyball players and silver medalists in the 2022 Mini Games held in the Northern Marianas beat Jacob Landel and Kylen Winterbotha in a nip-and-tuck finals, 28-25.

Mister and Johnson reached the championship round after turning back Brigg Busenhart and Tennessee Fulks in a similar 28-25 score. Prior to that the duo easily topped Ben Airola and Jake Shapiro, 28-19, in the quarterfinals. In the Round of 16, they disposed of Rob deAurora and John Humphrey also with a score of 28-19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Logan Mister, left, and Andrew Johnson pose with their championship T-shirts after ruling the California Beach Volleyball Association Men's Open Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Main Beach in Santa Cruz, California.

In a social media interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the 23-year-old Mister said winning the CBVA Men's Open was payoff for all their hard work in the summer.

"For me it was a relief. I've been playing in lots of tournaments all summer all over, battling and training to try and win. After the tournament win, I felt overjoyed and motivated."

He and the 27-year-old Johnson then dedicated their victory to everyone back home in the CNMI.

Mister said bringing home the bacon in the CBVA Men's Open is a nice start as they ramp up their

See NMI on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson said they're dedicating their championship to the people back home in the CNMI.

Jandoc, Enano are Destroyers MVPs

LEIGH GASES

Mythical 5 awardees, from right, Justine Enano (Best Forward), Daryll Foronda (Best Forward), Emman Bondad (Best Center), Jhay-R Gatbonton (Best Guard), and Frank Ferrer (Best Guard), during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 last Sunday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The most valuable players of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 were announced during the championship awards ceremony held last Sunday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

The finals MVP was championship team Savemore's Getsen Jandoc for his team-high 21 points and lead-

See JANDOC on Page 15

TJ rules Mini II Class anew

TISHA FERRER

T.J. Ferrer in action in the Mini II Class of Round 8 of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

T.J. Ferrer overcame a rough start to edge Calix Cruz in the Mini II Class of Round 8 of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

The 13-year-old Tanapag Middle School student finished second to Cruz in Heat 1, but then came back to win Heat 2 to finish with 47 points—same as Cruz. As per Marianas Racing Association rules, the winner of the last heat takes the checkered flag in case of ties.

"The weather was sunny and so good and the course was great," said Ferrer when asked how was race conditions last Sunday.

He then dedicated his Round 8 win to his sister, J.C. "I miss her. She left for the U.S. Navy two weeks ago. I also want to thank my dad and mom, the MRA family, my teammates, Trench Tech Racing, the Villacanas family for always supporting me, and to God for protecting me."

Ferrer said he fine-tunes his motocross skills by practicing with his Yamaha YZ 85 2-3 times a month at the Marpi motocross course.

In the Novice Class, Matthew Guerrero won both heats for 50 points, while Christian Camacho and Frankie Sablan came in second and third with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

Anella Igitol, meanwhile, captured the Mini ATV with also a perfect score of 50 points. Payton Pangelinan came in second with 42 points, while Nakoa Torres finished third with the same score but he lost the second heat.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*